

Dreamers  
in dollar  
land

Waltzing  
down the  
Danube

Bruno's  
money  
machine

LAST WEEK'S  
AVERAGE DAILY SALE  
448,000

No 63,327

# THE TIMES

30p

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 1989

## Richmond jolt raises fears among Tories

### Triumphant Owen rejects approach by Ashdown

● A narrow victory for the Conservative candidate in the Richmond by-election yesterday jolted the Government

● The SLD leader Mr Paddy Ashdown reacted immediately by calling for talks with Dr Owen, who rejected the plea

● Dr David Owen's SDP dramatically revived its political fortunes when its candidate finished a close second

● A decisive victory for Labour at Pontypriid provided further evidence that the party is staging a recovery

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A collapse in the Conservative vote at the Richmond by-election severely jolted the Government and raised ministerial fears that it is about to sink into the traditional mid-term trough of unpopularity. It was the SDP candidate who finished a close second, putting Dr David Owen and his formerly

fragile party back on the political map. The result, declared yesterday afternoon, was a blow to the chosen strategy of Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Democrats' leader. He reacted by calling for talks between the two party leaders — a call which Dr Owen is rejecting. Dr Owen said: "A stunning result for the SDP. It shows

19,576 out to just 2,644 by a late surge for the SDP candidate Mr Mike Potter, a local farmer. Protests from disgruntled farmers, mortgage holders and small businessmen worried about inflation and interest rates and from opponents of water privatization nearly saw the Conservatives ousted in one of the safest seats in the country, formerly held by Sir Leon Brittan.

It was the biggest drop in the Conservative share of the vote since 1979.

Mr Ashdown has been insisting that what he calls "the breakaway SDP" has no future in politics except as a band of spoilers capable of denying by-election victories to the larger former Alliance party which he leads. Mr Ashdown's strategy of seeking to bury the SDP and refusing to consider pacts and deals with Dr Owen is now under severe strain and is likely to be questioned by some of his MPs.

Dr Owen has been calling for deals over which party lights which by-election but Mr Ashdown has refused.

After yesterday's result the Conservatives will be hoping that the two parties fighting for the centre ground of British politics continue to dispute that territory.

Senior Labour figures meanwhile were intrigued at Dr Owen's revival after he had openly flirted with the Labour Party.

They are beginning to see a role for Dr Owen who has the capacity, in some future deal with Labour, to confer an added respectability on their new policy approach.

RICHMOND	
William Hague (C)	19,543
Michael Potter (SDP)	16,909
Barbara Pearce (SLD)	11,589
Frank Robinson (Lab)	2,581
Dr Robert Upsall (Green)	1,473
Lord David Sutch (Loony)	167
Anthony Miles (University)	113
Lord St Oliver (Conservative)	106
Nicholas Watkins (Off Lab)	70
Conservative majority	2,634
Total vote	49,837
Turnout	63%

1987: U Britain (C) 34,985; D Lloyd-Williams (L/AI) 15,419; F Roberts (Lab) 6,737. Majority: 18,576

Swing: 9.53% from C to SLD

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that sticking with your beliefs pays off in British politics. Meanwhile the Pontypriid by-election, the results of which were declared in the early hours of yesterday morning, provided further evidence of a recovery for Labour, whose candidate Mr Kim Howells held off a challenge from the Welsh nationalists who pushed the Conservatives into third place.

At Richmond 27-year-old Mr William Hague became the second youngest MP in the Commons. But he saw the Conservative majority of

## New worry of rise in base rates

By David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

Worries about a further rise in Britain's base rates have increased, after an increase in American interest rates yesterday. They could have to be raised to 14 per cent before the Budget to support the pound. The Bank of England again stepped in to support sterling yesterday, after the Federal Reserve Board lifted the US discount rate from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

Rates rise fear, page 17

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## Passengers tell of jumbo jet 'ripping apart'



The crippled United Airlines Boeing 747 standing at Honolulu Airport last night, the gaping hole ripped in its fuselage clearly visible.

## 11 pulled to death through hole in Boeing 747 over the Pacific

By Harvey Elliott in London and Charles Bremner in New York

Eleven passengers were sucked to their death high over the Pacific yesterday when a hole appeared in the side of a United Airlines Boeing 747 around the front cargo door.

The aircraft, which was delivered to United in 1970, had taken off from Honolulu on its way to Auckland, New Zealand, carrying 336 passengers and 15 crew, when the pilot reported a loss of power in the inboard starboard engine.

At the same time passengers heard the sound of the aircraft "ripping apart" and three or four rows of people were "blown out of the aircraft". The pilot managed to bring the aircraft back into land at

Honolulu and the passengers were evacuated down emergency slides. Experts who dashed to the scene immediately began examining the area which has torn away and trying to decide whether the cargo door had come away and ripped upwards on its hinges, spraying debris into the engine.

A spokesman for the FAA in Honolulu said the pilot reported an explosion and that he was losing power in one starboard engine nine minutes after take off. Eight minutes later power failed on the second starboard turbine. Experts said it appeared that parts of the fuselage had damaged the engines.

Investigators for the FBI

and National Transportation Safety Board questioned passengers and started studying the damaged aircraft. A spokesman said it was too early to determine a cause but the news media immediately focused on the eerie similarity to the incident in which a smaller Boeing 737 lost its roof over Hawaii last April 28. That plane, an elderly model belonging to Aloha Airlines, suffered decompression as it was climbing through 24,000 ft. One stewardess was sucked out and passengers were seriously injured but the pilot managed to land. The FAA blamed cracks in the old aircraft and ordered strict new inspection rules.

In Honolulu Airport injured

and dazed passengers lay on blankets on the floor. Others went to telephones to contact families. United Airlines, which is based in Chicago and has one of the best safety records in the world, could not say yet whether any Britons had been among the injured or dead passengers.

Local officials said the pilot's first emergency call reported a "possible bomb explosion" together with the engine failure.

A passenger, Mrs Robelle Perel of Beverly Hills, said she was sitting next to seats that were blown away. "There was a kind of a hissing sound, like air and then a tearing away of the plane. It did not sound like an explosion."

## Hirohito's subdued farewell

From Joe Joseph  
Tokyo

A frantic diplomatic timetable and Washington politics competed for attention here yesterday as a chilly rain and mixed passions escorted the coffin of Emperor Hirohito to its final resting place in a drab dormitory suburb in western

Ceremony protests.....7  
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Tokyo.

The gathering swelled into the biggest state funeral of modern times, but it was a subdued coda for a man who for 62 years symbolized his nation in peace, war and prosperity, and who, since his death on January 7 at the age

Continued on page 16, col 4

## 10 killed in Bombay protest over Rushdie

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi, and Nicholas Beeston

Ten people died in the crowded streets of Bombay yesterday as police opened fire on a mob of yelling Muslim demonstrators calling for Britain to ban the publication of Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses* and to cease protecting the author.

The mob, assembled by Muslim organizations which told them their religion was endangered by the book, took to the narrow streets of a Muslim quarter, and turned violent when they were told to disperse.

Police retaliated with tear-gas and baton charges, but the

Meanwhile, Foreign Office

Hurd at mosque.....13

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sources confirmed that the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had attempted to enlist the support of his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, to deliver a message to the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran this weekend.

## 'Dolly' de Rothschild leaves £92m will

By David Sapsted



Mrs de Rothschild: Money for charities in Israel.

Mrs Dorothy "Dolly" de Rothschild, the banking family matriarch who died in December, has left more than £92.8 million net in what is believed to be the largest estate ever certified in England.

The National Trust is among the beneficiaries and £20 million is earmarked for a trust established by Mrs de Rothschild four years ago.

The will, published yesterday, leaves an estate valued at £94,117,964 gross, much of it destined for charities in Israel. The will also appoints an undisclosed amount left in her husband's will.

After the death in 1957 of her husband James, son of the head of the French House of

Rothschild, Mrs de Rothschild handed over their chateau-style home, Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, to the National Trust, along with its priceless art collection.

Mrs de Rothschild, who was 93, did not detail the bequests made in her 26-page will. Mr Hugh Henshaw, her solicitor, yesterday said: "The will has a large number of beneficiaries, including individuals and charities."

He said Mr Jacob Rothschild, chairman of Charterhouse J Rothschild and himself a beneficiary, would become responsible for money earmarked for charities, particularly the National Trust and those in Israel. He will

also be responsible for Mrs de Rothschild's two estates in Buckinghamshire.

Much of the money is expected to go to the Haginiv Foundation, established by Mrs de Rothschild and her husband. The charity has already provided the means for the construction of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, and the new Supreme Court under construction in Jerusalem.

The charity is also heavily involved in various educational and social projects in Israel.

Mrs de Rothschild was involved in charitable work in London's East End and served as a magistrate in Buckinghamshire for nearly 40 years.

Other wills, page 12

## THE FAMILY BOND

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A MEMBER OF LAUTRO



# Protest votes trigger dramatic swings in Conservative and Labour heartlands

## Middle parties slash Tory lead at Richmond

The dramatic fall in the Conservative share of the vote in the Richmond by-election is worse than in any by-election since Mrs Thatcher came to power.

The only occasions during the 1983-87 Parliament when the Conservative share of the vote dropped more than 20 per cent were at Brecon and Radnor in 1986, and at Greenwich in 1987. In both cases the seats were lost to the former Alliance parties.

In the 1979-83 Parliament, the Conservative share fell by more than 20 per cent only when Roy Jenkins fought Warrington in the first contest for the SDP.

At Richmond, the SDP and Social and Liberal Democrats took an astonishing 54.1 per cent of the vote between them, an advance of 27.1 per cent on the showing by the Alliance candidate at the last election and a sign of the public's eagerness to find a suitable receptacle for protest votes to give the Government a shock.

The evidence that protest is the name of the game is that in Pontypridd the same day, the candidates from the two former Alliance parties both lost their deposits. There Labour was the established party and Plaid Cymru became identified as the obvious challengers, moving up from fourth place to second and

PONTYPRIDD	
Kim Howells (Lab)	26,649
Syd Morgan (PC)	9,785
Nigel Evans (C)	5,212
Tom Ellis (SLD)	1,500
Terry Thomas (SDP)	1,199
David Richards (Comm)	259
David Black (Ind)	57
Labour majority	10,794
Total vote 38,511	Turnout 62%

increasing their share of the vote from 5.3 per cent to 25.3 per cent.

Though Labour did well at Pontypridd, the party's vote in Richmond was always likely to be squeezed by a party better able to threaten the Tories, and the loss of deposit for the able Labour candidate Frank Robson came as no surprise.

At Pontypridd, the share of the vote, with general election figures in brackets, was Labour 53.4 (56.3), Plaid Cymru 25.3 (5.3), Conservatives 13.5 (19.5), Democrats 3.9 and SDP 3.1 (Alliance 18.9).

Although it is argued that if Labour were really closing the gap nationally—as recent opinion polls have suggested—the party should have increased its vote in Pontypridd, Labour strategists were well pleased with their share in bad voting weather, and with

CHANGE IN PARTY VOTING SHARES					
Change in share of the vote at by-elections since 1983					
Date	By-election	Con	Lab	All	Result
1979-83	Parliament				
24.2.83	Bermondsey	-19.4	-37.5	+50.9	All Gain
24.3.83	Darlington	-8.5	-6.0	+14.3	Lab Hold
1983-87	Parliament				
28.7.83	Pennith & Borders	-12.8	-5.9	+16.7	Con hold
1.3.84	Chesterfield	-17.3	-1.6	+15.2	Lab hold
3.5.84	Surrey SW	-10.4	-1.5	+11.3	Con hold
3.5.84	Stafford	-10.8	+3.7	+7.1	Con hold
3.5.84	Cynon Valley	-6.8	+2.8	-0.7	Lab hold
14.6.84	Portsmouth S	-15.7	+3.9	+12.2	SDP gain
13.12.84	Southgate	-8.5	-5.9	+12.2	Con hold
4.7.85	Brecon & Radnor	-20.5	+9.3	+11.4	Lab gain
6.12.85	Tyne Bridge	-14.2	+1.3	+11.4	Lab hold
10.4.86	Fulham	-11.3	+10.4	+0.6	Lab gain
8.5.86	Ryedale	-17.9	-1.9	+19.8	Lab gain
8.5.86	Derbyshire West	-16.3	+2.7	+12.3	Con hold
17.7.86	Newcastle u Lyme	-17.4	-1.2	+17.7	Lab hold
13.11.86	Knowsley N	-13.8	-8.2	+19.8	Lab hold
28.2.87	Greenwich	-23.7	-4.4	+27.8	SDP gain
12.3.87	Truro	-6.6	+2.6	+3.1	Lab hold

Date	By-election	Con	Lab	SDP/SLD	Other
1987-Parliament					
14.7.88	Kensington	-5.9	+4.9	-1.4	-
10.11.88	Govan	-4.6	-	-8.2+38.4	-
		27.9		SNP	
15.12.88	Epping Forest	-21.5	+0.4	+18.8	-
23.2.89	Pontypridd	-8.0	-2.9	-11.9+20.0	PC
23.2.89	Richmond-24.1	-6.9	+27.1	-	-

the nationalists on the move. The nightmare of Govan, where the Scottish nationalists overturned Labour's 19,000 majority in November, had put the party on the defensive in a seat it had held for 66

years, and Labour fought it as if it were a marginal.

In the seats Labour defended in the last Parliament, the result, in share of the vote terms was: Chesterfield -1.6, Cynon Valley +2.8, Tyne

Bridge +1.3, Newcastle-under-Lyme -1.2, Knowsley North -8.2 and Greenwich -4.4. The party's 2.9 per cent drop in share of the vote at Pontypridd therefore is nothing out of the ordinary.

At Richmond, the party shares were: Conservatives 37.1 per cent (61.2); SDP 32.1 per cent and Social and Liberal Democrats 22.0 per cent (Alliance 27.0); and Labour 4.9 per cent (11.8). The remarkable thing is that the SDP share alone exceeded what the joint parties of the Alliance achieved at the general election.

Attention will now focus on the by-election due in another Welsh seat, the Vale of Glamorgan, following the death of former Conservative MP Sir Raymond Gower. On the face of it, Labour's task there should be simple. Recent national polls have put the party within range of the 6.2 per cent swing it requires to capture a Tory seat only for the second time since 1979. The party will be hoping to squeeze the vote of the former Alliance parties, and the constituency is one in which it will be hard for the nationalists to make an impact.



Home and dry: Mr William Hague, celebrating winning Richmond for the Conservatives

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## School governors to be reinstated

Two Conservative school governors dismissed by the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority are to be reinstated. The Court of Appeal has ruled that they were unlawfully removed after refusing to follow Labour Party policy.

Mr John Hunt, Conservative MP for Ravensbourne, Kent, and Mrs Margaret Brunyate, vice-chairman of the governors of the Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Schools, were removed by Ilea after they had voted in favour of turning the two schools, one boys and one girls, into a City Technology College.

Mr Christopher Bostock, chairman of the governors, said he expected parents to vote on the proposal in the summer term. The reinstatement of the two governors means that there is now a majority in favour of the CTC.

An Ilea spokesman said the authority would consider an appeal to the Lords. "It is vital that we get a quick decision. Hundreds of schools could be affected by it," he said.

## 'Loyalist' arms find

Substantial "loyalist" arms caches were discovered by police and troops yesterday in a day-long search operation which embraced a large part of the 20-mile long Ards peninsula, a mainly Protestant rural area of Co Down. The Royal Ulster Constabulary would not say if there were any arrests. Home-made machine-guns, rifles, pistols, grenades and ammunition, are understood to have been found. The grenades are thought to be of the type supplied by Libya to both republican and loyalist terrorists in 1987.

## Inkstand export deal

The George II inkstand, which fetched a record £770,000 at Christie's last December, looks destined to go abroad, after the speedy processing of an export licence by the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art. Made by the craftsman Paul de Lamerie, its provenance is enhanced by the fact that it was once owned by Robert Walpole and bears his crest and motto. Mr Titus Kendall, of Spink, said it was sold to a Swiss-based collector. The price, he said, is substantially more than that paid at Christie's.

## Poor response to 1992

Scottish businesses have been criticized for doing "too little too late" in the run-up to the single European market. Speaking in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr Bruce Millan, European Commissioner, said Scottish businesses had to prepare themselves for 1992. Mr Millan described as "not encouraging" the results of a survey which found 44 per cent of the businesses which replied had done nothing to prepare for the single market. Only 26 per cent were aware to a significant extent of European competitors.

## Theatre library plea

Richard Briers, Susannah York, Simon Callow and Brian Cox were among the theatre personalities who called at No 10 Downing Street yesterday with a plea to save the British Theatre Association Library. The letter they handed in had 50 signatures, including Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Jonathan Miller, Glenda Jackson and Tom Stoppard and was a last-ditch attempt to prevent the 70-year-old association, which has the world's largest collection of plays, disappearing at the end of next month unless £150,000 a year can be found.

## Eight held over blast

Eight people were being questioned by police last night after a series of dawn raids in the Bristol area in connection with the bomb blast that destroyed part of the Senate House at the city's university. Animal rights activists had claimed responsibility. Forensic scientists were yesterday sifting through the debris and collecting evidence on the construction of the 5 lb bomb which exploded on Wednesday night.

## RUC's new chief looks ahead to 'bed of nails'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The new Irish-born chief constable of the RUC yesterday accepted he could face a "real bed of nails" as he committed himself to leading the Ulster force for at least five years.

But Mr Hugh Annesley, at present the Scotland Yard assistant commissioner in charge of London's special detective forces, told a press conference in Co Antrim: "I will continue to deal with all those I come into contact with in a fair manner, irrespective of colour, race, creed or code."

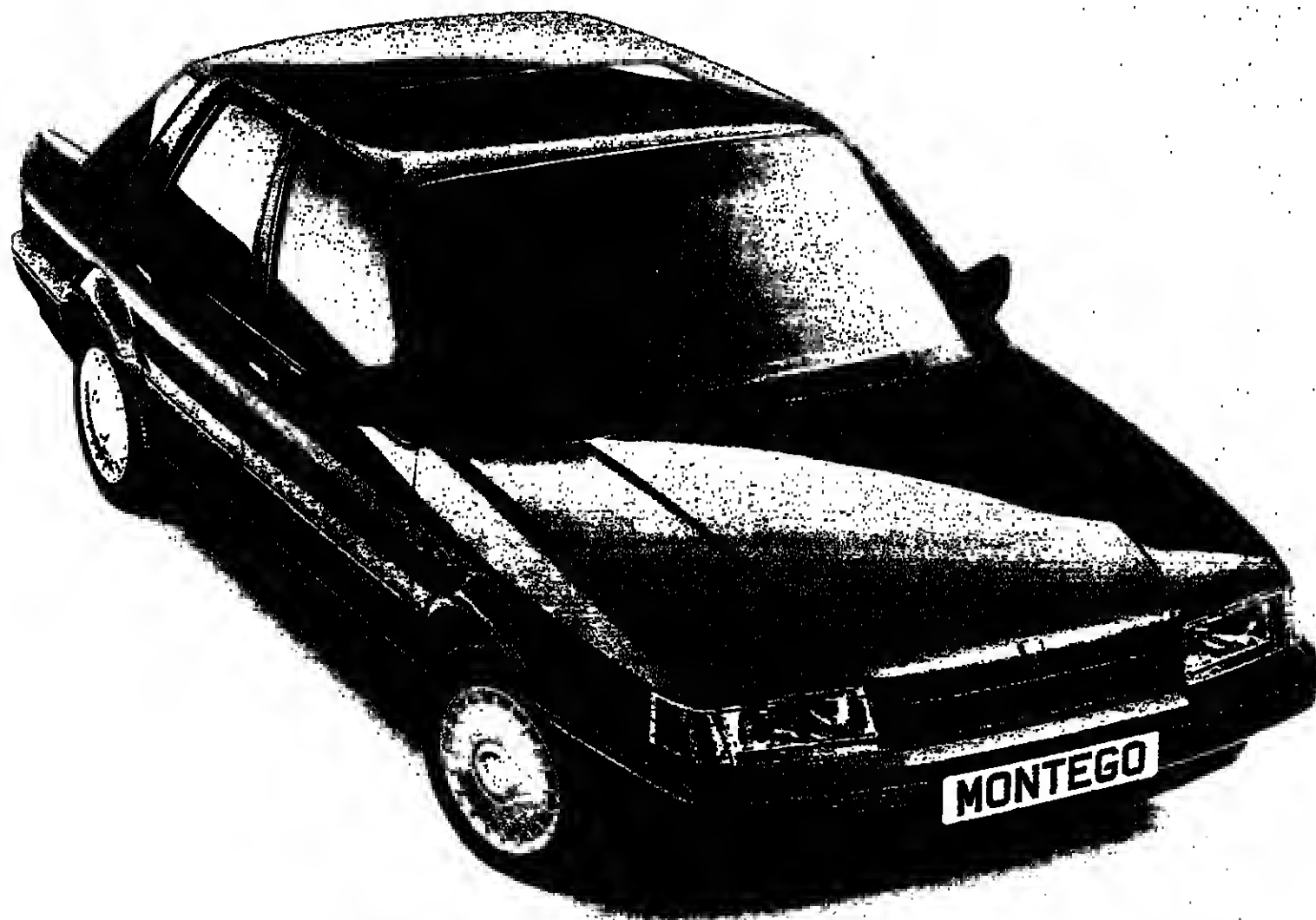
He will lead a force facing the repercussions of the Stalker/Sampson report on allegations of a shoot-to-kill policy, budgeting problems, management stagnation and past difficulties with both Roman Catholic and Protestant communities.

Yesterday Mr Annesley, who will command more than 8,000 full-time officers and a sizeable reserve, would not comment on the Sampson/Stalker report.

Asked about nationalist support for the RUC, he said: "I think the support of any sizeable group within any community is essential to accurate and effective policing in a democracy."

Mr Annesley, who takes over the £57,000 a year post from Sir John Harman this summer, said his first task would be to listen and learn.

Continuing cross-border co-operation was absolutely essential, he said.



**The new Cavalier won't be along for a second or so.**

For 1989, the Montego 1.6L has a restyled front. And for Cavalier drivers (left behind by the 0-62 mph acceleration) it has a restyled rear.

What's more there are 185/65 low-profile tyres and a new five-speed gearbox.

Inside we have redesigned the centre console

and included sports front seats with their own adjustable lumbar support.

We have added a four-speaker stereo radio/cassette with Autostore. Which, to dissuade thieves from a quick getaway with the car's sound system, is security coded.

And of course, a slide and tilt sunroof comes as standard. As does tinted glass. All ample grounds, we feel, to contest Vauxhall's cavalier claims.

They might call the Cavalier the car of the future.

But the Montego's ahead of its time.

**MONTEGO 1.6L**



## Shotgun raiders fire on PC after robbery at millionaire's home

By Mark Soester

Armed robbers fired a sawn-off shotgun at a chasing policeman yesterday after a £20,000 raid by a four-man gang on the home of an Asian millionaire in Nottingham.

Police Constable Carl Handford, had singlehandedly confronted two members of the gang after the robbery in which Mr. Nat Puri and his wife, Devi, were trapped and gagged at gunpoint and bundled into a cupboard.

Last year Mr. Puri set up a £1 million charitable trust in gratitude to Britain 20 years after arriving as a penniless student from India.

The gang ransacked his house and stole £20,000 in cash and other goods worth further £10,000 and fled in his two cars. The couple escaped and raised the alarm an hour later. One of their cars, a Jaguar, was abandoned at Gedling three miles away, but the other, a red Mercedes, was

pursued by police in a chase along the M1.

PC Handford cornered two of the gang when the Mercedes crashed into garages in a cul-de-sac in Loughborough 15 miles away. As he approached them the raiders fired at him with a sawn-off shotgun and the blast hit his patrol car. PC Handford then reversed his car to block off the cul-de-sac and the men were forced to flee on foot.

Police sealed off the area and searched 24 houses throughout the night, but the men escaped.

Det. Chief Supt Bob Wood, of Nottingham police, said yesterday that PC Handford saw the Mercedes driving towards the M1 at junction 24 near Kegworth, south of Nottingham. "He took up the chase at speeds up to 120 mph," Mr. Wood said.

"When they crashed he displayed the typical courage

of a police officer acting alone."

Mr. Puri's ordeal began late on Thursday when three of the masked raiders burst into the couple's home at Mapperley, Nottingham.

Detectives last night widened their search for the gang, described by a senior officer as "very dangerous" to roads and houses near Loughborough University.

As more than 50 officers carried out house-to-house inquiries in the area, Det. Supt John Wallace, of Leicester police, warned the public to be on their guard. Both men are described as white, aged 25-30 and 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in. One is said to be slim, while his accomplice is stocky.

Mr. Puri said yesterday: "It was a terrifying experience. I am still shaken and my wife is very distressed."

Mr. Puri, aged 49, epitomized Mrs. Thatcher's Britain since he arrived in England in 1966 as an engineering student.

Within nine years he started his own engineering consultancy which became the Melton Meades Group, today the company has worldwide sales of £100 million and employs 3,400 worldwide, and 2,800 in Britain.

Mr. Puri is Nottingham chairman of the Prince of Wales Trust. In July last year he put up £1 million to fund the Puri Foundation which provides for the needy and makes donations to schools and hospitals.

Last August the Government rejected his takeover bid for the North East Shipbuilders in Sunderland.

## Victory for struck-off midwife

By David Cross

A midwife who was struck off for taking a haemorrhaging mother and her newly-born son to hospital in a private car rather than waiting for a special ambulance, yesterday won her battle in the High Court for reinstatement.

Miss Jilly Rosser, aged 33, one of the few independent midwives in the country, said she had been made a scapegoat for the inefficiencies of the maternity services.

"This is a good day for midwifery because we now feel we have some protection against senior members of our profession using their power in an arbitrary manner," she said.

Last year seven midwives were facing various disciplinary measures for alleged breaches of conduct but all of these have been settled in favour of the accused.

Miss Rosser, a mother of two, including a two-week-old daughter born prematurely, was found guilty by the professional conduct committee of the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Visiting last September on four out of seven counts of misconduct relating to a home birth in August 1987.

They included failing to take proper notes, failing to contact a GP, and deciding to use the patient's car, without a drip or other medical help, instead of waiting for a fully-equipped obstetrics flying squad vehicle.

But the court was told that Miss Rosser took the mother aged 37 from her home in Highgate, north London, to hospital three miles away because she knew that she might have to wait an hour or more for the special ambulance. "If I had waited it could have been fatal for the mother," Miss Rosser said at her home in Finsbury Park, north London. In the event, the mother recovered after an emergency operation and the



Miss Jilly Rosser celebrates her legal victory yesterday with two-week-old daughter, Polly. Faced with the same situation again she would make exactly the same decision to use a private car, Miss Rosser added.

She won her appeal before

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr. Justice Phillips when the professional conduct committee conceded that there had been a "procedural irregularity" during last year's hearing.

The judges quashed the findings of the committee, set aside a decision to remove her from the register of midwives and ordered the committee to pay costs of the appeal.

## IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK



### The big heat

● Scientists are predicting an increase in global warming, but how strong is the evidence for a worldwide greenhouse effect - and how will the world cope?

● In a three-part series beginning on Monday, *The Times* looks at the facts, the fallacies, the consequences and the politics of climatic change.



● Details of how to enter your own portfolio of shares in *The Times* Portfolio Bond competition appear today on page 28. Readers will need six vouchers, printed in *The Times* during the past week, to enter this part of the competition. Another voucher is printed today.

● There is up to £10,000 to be won each day in Portfolio Bond, using the pre-selected portfolios, your own selection, or the redeemable bond numbers.

● Mr. Gerard Connolly, aged 30, a merchant banker of South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, was the sole winner of yesterday's £2,000 daily prize. He said he would spend the money on a holiday. Portfolio Bond list: page 21. Details, voucher: page 28.

## Hurd's backlash warning to Muslims

By Sheila Ginn, Political Staff

Mr. Douglas Hurd told Britain's 750,000 Muslims yesterday that their protests over Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* must be expressed peacefully. Neither violence nor threats will be tolerated.

The Home Secretary detailed his anxiety that support voiced by Muslim extremists in Britain to Ayatollah Khomeini's death threats could provoke a racial backlash. Threats of death, talk of arrows being directed at hearts are vicious and repugnant to any civilized person, he said.

Mr. Hurd used the opportunity of a long-standing engagement to speak in the Central Mosque in Birmingham to issue a public warning to Muslims. His tone was low-key but the message was clear: they must not break Britain's laws, the

same laws which protect them from harassment.

He told them: "I know from letters and from conversations with individual Muslims and MPs from all political parties how grieved and hurt British Muslims have been by Mr. Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*. You feel perhaps as if the most sacred things of your faith have been insulted and wounded. You feel shocked and you feel angry. The law gives you the freedom to express your protests, peacefully and with dignity."

British Muslims, he added, are entitled to protest about a book which they believe denigrates the prophet of Islam. "But to turn such protests towards violence or the threat of violence is wholly unacceptable." No one in Britain can pick which laws to obey or ignore

and the law protected freedom of worship for all faiths. "It is the law which punishes racial attacks and racial harassment; it is a shield and a refuge, perhaps more for religious and ethnic minorities than for anyone else."

Last night, Mr. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, welcomed Mr. Hurd's speech as containing the same message as advocated by himself.

As Mr. Hurd spoke, 3,000 Muslim demonstrators expressed their outrage over Mr. Rushdie's book at a rally in Manchester. The protesters ripped apart a paper effigy of the author they described as "evil and corrupt." Mr. Abdullah Azad, of the Manchester Central Mosque, said Mr. Rushdie had played a confidence trick on the English literary establishment.

Clifford Longley, page 12

## New doubt on abuse claims

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A police surgeon who gave a second opinion on some Cleveland child abuse cases yesterday cast new doubts on the latest claims about the levels of abuse.

Dr. Raine Roberts, director of a sexual assault centre in Manchester, told a London conference that three-quarters of the children she had seen had not been abused and most denied that they had been.

Dr. Roberts carried out examinations in 39 cases. Although many exhibited "unusual" physical signs, she believed about 30 had not

been abused. Her claim appears to contradict a letter from 11 paediatricians sent to *The Guardian* claiming that "possibly over 90 per cent" of the 121 children diagnosed by Dr. Marietta Higgs and Dr. Geoffrey Wyatt were abused.

Although she refused to comment on the letter, Dr. Roberts said: "We should publish the evidence in scientific journals and not slag each other off in the press."

Mr. David Jones, chairman of the conference held by the Society of Community Medicine, said if people used figures they had to be able to justify them. Mr. Jones, general secretary of the British Associ-

ation of Social Workers, said: "It does not help to the debate if people make dramatic assertions and then are not able to back them up afterwards."

Dr. Roberts said physical evidence, including the controversial reflex anal dilatation (RAD) test, could not in itself prove abuse. She said cases were still being brought to court using this test.

She criticized the Butler-Sloss report for failing to answer questions about the diagnostic technique. It had failed to question why children still showed signs of anal dilatation 15 months after the alleged abuse.

## Boys, 11, saw killing court told

Two schoolboys told the IRA funeral murder trial in Belfast yesterday how they saw a man shot to death through the windscreen of his car.

The boys, then aged 11, were on their way to school in Lisburn, Co. Antrim, when they heard a shot and saw a man with a shotgun standing beside a car, Belfast Crown Court was told.

As they watched, he fired another shot through the windscreen of the car before escaping in a second vehicle.

The killing of Kevin McPolin, aged 27, a joiner, in November 1985, is one of six sectarian murders denied by Michael Stone, aged 33, from Ravenswood Park, Belfast.

He is also accused of murdering three men during a gun and grenade attack on an IRA funeral in west Belfast in March last year.

A school patrolman, who also saw the shooting of Mr. McPolin, told Mr. Justice Higgins how the injured man had climbed out of his car and half staggered, half crawled along the road towards him before collapsing.

"I think he was dead before he hit the ground", the patrolman said.

However, Mr. McPolin was alive when he arrived at a hospital 15 minutes later but died shortly afterwards.

The trial continues on Monday.

## Chatline delay

The High Court in London yesterday reserved judgement in the case of six leading telephone chatline companies whose lines were cut off by British Telecom this month.

## Social attitudes in Britain

### Hard workers most admired

By David Cross

Britons admire people who are hard working, self-confident and healthy rather than those who are rich, sporty and ostentatious. They have least respect for those who spend their time on such popular pursuits as sunning themselves in Majorca or sitting in front of their television watching the soap opera, *Dallas*.

These are some of the findings of a survey commissioned by the Henley Centre for Forecasting into social attitudes in the late 1980s.

The report shows that respect for the work ethic in Mrs. Thatcher's Britain far out-

strips the league table of attributes people respect most. On a scale of one to five (where one equaled "no respect" and five equaled "a lot of respect") hard work was valued at 4.5.

Next came a group of personality and physical traits, such as self-confidence, ambition and modesty (scoring just under four points), followed by characteristics associated with social competence or skills such as intelligence and an ability to speak, dress and entertain well (about 3.5 points).

"It is only then, half-way

down the rankings, that we begin to find attributes or symbols of affluence."

More than eight out of 10 Britons are most influenced in their lives by their spouse or partner, more than six out of 10 by their children and half by their parents and friends, according to the survey.

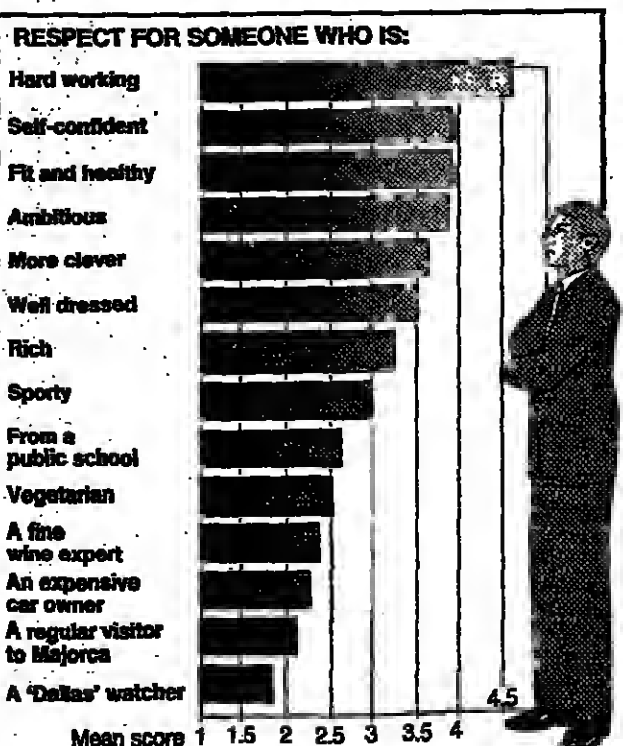
Institutions such as the media, political parties and the church which once reigned supreme have relatively little sway over our lives. Only 28 per cent of those questioned thought that television news affected the way they thought. 27 per cent the political party they supported and 24 per cent their religious leaders.

"It is our view that deference to traditional authorities in Britain has now hit an all-time low. Politicians are liars, hypocrites or fools - and publicly described as such", the survey says.

"Doctors, lawyers and other professionals no longer get accorded the reverence and respect they once received."

After close family and friends, the next most significant sources of authority for the average Briton are his employer and workmates. Fifty-two per cent of those surveyed said they were influenced by their bosses and 39 per cent by their colleagues. Advertisers, manufacturers and members of the Royal Family are least influential. Only 14 per cent thought that they were significant forces. Union leaders were at the bottom of the league.

Planning for Social Change 1988-89 (Henley Centre for Forecasting, 2-4 Tudor Street, London EC4V 0AA; £3.50).



## Guests marooned at 'Hawick Hilton'

By Kerry Gill

The Borders town of Hawick has been hit by a controversy to rival that of Chichester, the fictitious French village in which an ornate pissoir was built only to become the source of local squabbling.

The Scottish version is a £100,000 public convenience nicknamed by locals as the "Hawick Hilton" as a measure of its superb construction.

For the past few months however, Hawick has been beset with rumours that all was not well with the new conveniences. Essentially, old ladies were

continually finding themselves locked in the lavatory. Several days ago, the rumours finally became the subject of an official complaint at a meeting of the community council.

It was not so much that the locks did not work, rather that they worked too well. Once inside the cubicles, many found it almost impossible to get out.

Mr. John McLaren, director of technical services for Roxburgh District Council, said the council had been unaware of the difficulties until recently. "It is a bit of a comic hell joke, but it is

something we are treating very seriously", he said.

Mr. McLaren said that work was in hand to rectify the doors which had slightly warped making the specially designed locks difficult to open.

"Some people have said we could have built a couple of bungalows and thrown in a caravan for the price, but the high cost is mainly because of the plumbing. Generally, people have admired the lavatory. It was entered in the 'Good Loo Award'. The entry was sent in by customers and we got a very good critic."

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# BR first aid kits were totally inadequate, says surgeon

By Tony Dawe

First aid kits carried on board the trains involved in the Clapham rail disaster were described as "totally inadequate" yesterday by a surgeon who survived the crash which killed 35 people.

Mr Crawford Jamieson, a consultant at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said the kits were so outdated and had so many vital items missing that they were almost useless in a large-scale accident.

He told the public inquiry into the crash that the boxes handed to him as he tended to the injured contained nothing to help save lives in such an emergency. "It was totally inadequate, not the sort of modern kit one could use in a disaster like this. It was missing almost everything except things like small bandages and cotton balls. It didn't have a plastic airway or any form of splint. You need a plastic airway to maintain the airway in an unconscious patient and for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation." Neither was there any of the special bandaging needed to help close wounds.

## CLAPHAM DISASTER INQUIRY

The inquiry was also told yesterday by Mr Jamieson and other passengers of the heroic actions of several schoolboys who helped to free and assist the injured. Mr Jamieson spoke of the "stoicism" of the injured and the "heroism" of passengers and helpers, including the boys.

The surgeon said on the fifth day of the inquiry into the December 12 disaster that when he reached the scene of the collision, a lot of bodies were piled on top of one

Temporary Station Officer Glyn Mills, of the London Fire Brigade, gave the inquiry the following timetable of the fire brigade's response:

8.13am. Fire brigade received initial call that there had been a train crash; 15 pumps and three emergency rescue tenders were ordered to the scene.

8.18am. As Mr Mills arrived at the scene he sent immediately for more assistance including eight more pumps.

8.19am. He sent a radio message: "Make

ambulances eight", calling for that number of vehicles to attend.

8.20am. He called for the assistance of an emergency team from local hospitals.

8.27am. He reported the crash to be a "major incident", requested that the necessary procedure be put into action and ambulance, police and British Rail be informed.

8.29am. He called for three more emergency rescue tenders with cutting equipment and other specialist gear.

another between the two trains. "At least two passengers who were not apparently very seriously injured were lying among the dead bodies. We thought it unwise to try and move them as we were not sure exactly what their injuries were."

Mr Jamieson told how he went to the aid of a young man trapped by his feet. "To get to him I had to climb under the train. It was almost an hour after I had started and this young man had been trapped all

that time. He was supported by a seatback which had been held up by a young boy of about 14 for all that time."

The surgeon said he worked his way through the crash area for about two hours before leaving and continuing on to work.

Boys from Emanuel School, which overlooks the scene of the crash, were praised by Miss Carol Ingram from Woking, Surrey. She told how they had helped people including herself escape

from the wreckage and clamber up the embankment to safety.

She said of the collision: "There was first of all a very loud bang and I was flung forward from my seat. There was a lot of dust and dirt and the train smelled almost of burning. People were fairly quiet and calm. There was not any screaming."

Mr John Preston, a company director from Fleet, Hampshire, described how he climbed down from the train to help a badly injured man who was staggering along the track suffering from shock.

Mr Michael Foster, a British Transport Police inspector, told how he checked that the emergency services had been informed that a crash had occurred and that the live rails had been switched off, and then went to the aid of a man who was trapped.

Mr Ernest Staton, a train driver who was a passenger on the Poole train, said he had been enjoying "an excellent ride" with an obviously experienced driver before the crash.

The inquiry continues on Wednesday.

## Adventure island to open up for surfers

The Hebridean Trust, concerned at the continuing depopulation of the island of Tiree, is to develop a year-round activity centre with aid from the European Development Fund.

The £273,000 project will provide outdoor adventure courses for young people during school holidays, but during the rest of the year will become a venue for environmental studies, sports activities, the furtherance of Gaelic studies and windsurfing. Tiree has recently become popular with windsurfers.

## Court closed

The Observer newspaper failed yesterday to persuade a Central Criminal Court judge to open his court to public and press. Judge Machin had earlier decided to hear evidence in a drugs trial in camera.

## Theft charge

Godfrey Macdonald, aged 45, a former Civil Servant at Burghfield Atomic Weapons Establishment, Berkshire, was sent for trial yesterday accused of stealing nearly £50,000 of Ministry of Defence equipment.

## Egg poisoning

An outbreak of salmonella poisoning which affected 80 wedding guests at the Savoy hotel in London is believed to have been caused by raw eggs in a hollandaise sauce served to guests by an outside catering firm.

## Seafront shut

The Torquay seafront in Devon was closed yesterday after an electricity cable was blown down and flood water, which had come over the seawall, covered it, making the area live.

## Bar ban cut

Mr Rudy Narayan, aged 50, a barrister, had a 30-month suspension from practice, imposed by the Bar Council Discipline Tribunal, reduced to 24 months yesterday on appeal.

## Asbestos alert

Four rooms in New St Andrews House, Edinburgh, headquarters of the Scottish Office, were sealed off yesterday after asbestos lining in ceilings was found to be damaged.

## Bill blocked

The Sunday Sports Bill, introduced by Mr Andrew MacKay, Tory MP for East Berkshire, opening the way for race meetings on 12 Sundays a year, was blocked by Labour MPs and failed to gain a second reading yesterday.

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## Ministers summoned in inner city jobs clash

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ministers from two of the Government's key departments are to be asked to appear before the Parliamentary Select Committee on Employment in a move unprecedented since Mrs Thatcher came to power.

The decision was taken because the committee considers the government response to its study of how urban development corporations could provide more jobs for people living in the local community was inadequate.

The corporations were established by the Government to regenerate inner cities and encourage investment in areas such as London docklands and Merseyside.

Last night, Mr Ron Leighton, the committee chairman, said: "Frankly, the members are dismayed and outraged by this response, which is why we are taking the step of asking ministers to appear before us."

Although ministers frequently give evidence to select committees, no member associated with the Employment Committee could recall when an official Government response had before been treated with such contempt.

One member said last night: "Never before have ministers been asked to appear before us after the Government has made its official observations. It demonstrates our belief and anger that they have totally avoided answering our main recommendation."

The committee decided to ask the ministers from the Department of Employment and the Department of the Environment to appear before them after alleging that the Government had totally "failed to address its main points".

Although Mr Ron Leighton is a Labour MP, the fact that

six of the 11 members are Conservatives is bound to cause embarrassment to both Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The committee believes that in the Government's response to its recommendations, expert witnesses from the departments failed to meet its wish for corporations to define regeneration more precisely.

In particular, the committee feels the Government has failed to comply with its wish that corporations should have a specific role for meeting employment and unemployment objectives.

Mr Leighton said that the members, after seeing how inner city problems were being tackled in the US, were convinced that the remit of the corporations should be widened.

They felt that because the corporations had no direct responsibility for employment, thousands of jobs were being created which excluded local communities.

Mr Leighton said that within the London Dockland Development Area, unemployment among local people was 8 per cent higher than when the corporation was established in 1981.

In its response to the committee, the Government said: "The creation of new jobs or the maintenance of existing jobs will follow naturally from much that the Corporations are doing to secure regeneration."

In addition, the committee urged that job vacancies be notified first to local people. The Government said that even within the London Docklands area, there were about 2,000 firms and it would not be feasible to collect data on this scale.

## Putting new glow on huge battle scene



"The Defeat of the Floating Batteries at Gibraltar", which commemorates the routing of the Spaniards in 1782 by Lord Heathfield, governor of the colony, and his forces, being returned to its former glory under

the eye of Mr Jan Keell, chief restorer of English Heritage (Patrick O'Hanlon writes). The painting, measuring 18ft by 25ft, has remained rolled up in store since the Guildhall art gallery was destroyed

during the Blitz, and has deteriorated. It is the work of John Singleton Copley and was commissioned by the City of London Corporation in 1783. Hanging space has been set aside for it in a gallery to be built

## 'Poor' alarm bells on Piper rig were removed

Alarm bells to give local warning of fire or dangerously high gas levels on the Piper Alpha platform were removed and not replaced because they were inadequate, the public inquiry into the disaster was told yesterday.

Mr Eric Scothern, an instrument technician for Occidental, the platform operators, told the inquiry at Aberdeen that the bells were not loud enough, were of poor design for offshore work, corroded easily, and were not required by the statutory regulations.

Instead, flashing beacons remained to give the alarm locally, and a public address announcement could be made from the control room. This

would be loud enough to be heard by workers wearing ear defenders in high noise areas such as C module, thought to be a source of the initial explosion on July 6 last year.

The changes had been approved by inspectors from the Department of Energy and Lloyd's, the platform's certifying authority.

Mr Hugh Campbell, QC for the trades union group, said that the purpose of audible alarms was to inform workers of hazards "forthwith" and that even if alarms were not preclude their use. Mr Scothern said that "if a control operator can advise you by PA immediately, then you

don't need the thing".

Mr Scothern agreed that it was left entirely to the discretion of control room operators whether and when a public address announcement of high gas levels would be made, and that there were no written instructions on when such announcements should be made.

The inquiry was also told that general alarms - which could be set off by breaking glass panels at alarm points - could be delayed from sounding by the control room to allow time to check its cause. Mr Scothern said the delay could be up to 200 seconds but was invariably set at 30 seconds.

Mr Scothern said that there were numerous false alarms in the late 1970s because of high levels of flaring gas. The system of production giving rise to this had been resumed a few days before the disaster.

Asked whether operators ever failed to check alarms, Mr Scothern said: "I have not seen an operator accept an alarm without getting it checked out".

Water curtains - designed to prolong the effectiveness of fire resistant walls - could only be activated locally, Mr Scothern said.

The inquiry resumes on Monday. It is expected that evidence from survivors will be heard next week.

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## Scottish pit votes to accept closure

By Kerry Gill

The death knell for deep mining in what was one of Britain's busiest coalfields was sounded yesterday as miners at Barony colliery, Ayrshire, reluctantly agreed to a closure plan by British Coal.

The vote, 240 against placing the mine under a review procedure to 164, demonstrates the miners' wish to apply for transfers to other collieries in the Scottish coalfield.

Closure of Barony, the last deep mine in Ayrshire, has been forced by the discovery of a geological fault across the pit's only remaining face. The workers believe that another face could have been developed, but British Coal said that the fault would make that impossible.

The end of the Barony pit will bring the loss of mining

jobs in Ayrshire to 4,500 during the past five years. The blow is doubly harsh as the area is one of the worst unemployment blackspots in Britain and the average age of the miners is 30.

In spite of redundancy packages offered by British Coal, most miners hope to find alternative jobs in the Scottish coalfield.

Mr Gordon Cossar, a Barony employee and a member of the Scottish area executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers, said after the vote: "It is clear that a substantial amount of the workforce were still prepared to fight the closure despite all the obstacles put in front of them by British Coal."

British Coal has promised there will be no compulsory redundancies.

## Being part of UK 'costs every Scot £7 per week'

The Union between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom is costing every Scot more than £7 a week, according to figures produced by the Scottish National Party.

The figure, representing the difference between the amount the Treasury takes from Scotland in revenue and the total ploughed back in government spending, were released by the SNP yesterday in an attempt to explode what they describe as "the myth of the subsidised Scot".

Mr Alex Salmond, the party's deputy leader, produced

an analysis of the estimated Scottish budget for 1989-90. Assuming no change in taxation or spending over the coming year, Mr Salmond said, revenues raised in Scotland would come to more than £20 billion, but public spending would be only £18.6 billion, producing a surplus of £1.939 billion - £7.30 for every man, woman and child.

The nationalists believe that the figures add weight to their argument that Scotland would be better off as an independent nation within the European Community.

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# The Times/PM Environment Award

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Today *The Times* and BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme invite readers and listeners to choose an outright winner of our joint £5,000 Environment Award from the five finalists whose profiles have been published on the *Spectrum* page and broadcast on *PM* every day this week.

Voting will be by post only, over the next two weeks, and closes at first post on Friday, March 10. We ask you to vote for one candidate only. Votes should be sent to Times/PM, PO Box 11, Northampton, NN4 0RG, either using the form printed below, or by writing on a postcard. If you use a postcard, please use merely the candidate's number and location, thus: 2-Radnor. Votes are restricted to one per voter and must carry the voter's full name and address.

Below we offer a reminder of the candidates who emerged from the more than 350 entries that were judged: a Nottinghamshire miner, a conservation society in a remote part of Wales, a New Forest Keeper, a conservation club from Orkney, and a Berkshire infants' school.

The award has deliberately been aimed away from politicians and national pressure groups, and we invite readers and listeners, in voting, to bear in mind its main aim: to encourage work to better the environment by ordinary people in local communities. All the finalists fit this description, though their work is very different.

One of the judges, Professor Jim Lovelock, FRS, says that one of the questions he is most often asked by people who care about the environment and its fate is: "But what can I do?"

On this page are five examples of the work ordinary people are doing to combat the increasing threats to our fragile earth. We now invite *Times* readers and *PM* listeners also to do something: to vote for the example they think most deserves the Times/PM Environment Award, 1989.

Michael McCarthy

## The way it used to be

Roger Brant is a miner in the Nottinghamshire village of Walsby near Newark who has initiated a single-handed challenge to the intensive farming all around him by creating his own conservation area. Working countless 12-hour overtime shifts at the coal face to raise the money, and providing the labour himself, he has bought a piece of land that was formerly a top, cleared it, and planted on it a traditional wildflower meadow with cowslips, foxgloves and traditional grasses, surrounded by hundreds of young native English trees. It is in stark contrast to the



Roger Brant: creating a wildlife oasis

## 3 - NEW FOREST

### Preserving the hornet

John Galliver is a New Forest Keeper — one of the ancient woodland's 12 foresters — with a special interest in protecting one of the forest's rarest but most awkward species, the hornet. The hornet is the largest of the British wasps with a sting to match, but is now threatened with extinction and the forest is its last stronghold. Every summer, John gets up to 20 calls to remove hornets' nests from people's houses or outbuildings and he relocates them as they can continue with their life cycle. He spends much time on study of



Nesting: John Galliver and his friends

## 5 - READING

### Seeds for a brighter future

The Coombes County Infants' School at Arborfield near Reading, under its headmistress Sue Humphries, is a school which tries to put its young pupils into constant contact with the natural world. Over 18 years the school grounds have been developed until they contain virtually every native species of British tree, thousands of flowers, many sorts of herbs, vegetables and fruits, and numerous nesting birds including tawny owls, as well as the school's own sheep and chickens. The five to seven-year-old children come into direct contact with all of this life daily: none leaves without



In touch: William Robinson, of Coombes

## Winning the race in Wales

The Radnorshire Wildlife Trust is a group of conservation enthusiasts in Mid-Wales who last year managed to raise £170,500 to buy Giffich Farm, an abandoned hill farm with spectacular wildlife, including red kites, otters and globe flowers, all very rare in Britain. The farm is a remarkable collection of unspoiled different habitats including heather moorland, hay meadows, marshy pastures, an oak wood and a salmon river, which might well have been interfered with drastically if it had been sold for either agricultural or tourist development. Coming on the market in



Local hero: a trust member at Giffich

## 4 - ORKNEY

### A forest link with the past

The Orkney Field Club is a group of conservation enthusiasts in the Scottish islands who are trying to care for and save what they claim is the most northerly piece of natural woodland in Britain, and probably the most easily lost — Berriedale wood on the island of Hoy. Towering sea cliffs and windswept moorland are the more familiar features of Hoy, and the wood, the last remnant of the prehistoric tree cover which cloaked the islands before man's arrival, is hanging on grimly in the face of gales that blow straight across the Atlantic from Nova Scotia. It is also threatened



Spare that wood: a club member at Hoy

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## February 24 PARLIAMENT

### Bill to ban waste-dump 'cowboys' goes ahead

There was an unopposed second reading in the Commons for a Bill to control "fly-tippers", who illegally dump waste, mainly building rubble.

"Cowboy" operators were accused during the debate of threatening "violent" action against those who sought to stop them.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Government intended to introduce a Bill to reform waste-disposal law as soon as possible. But she supported a second reading for this measure.

Mrs Joan Ruddock (Leisham, Deptford, Lab), moving second reading of the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Bill, said that fly-tipping was far more serious than the occasional dumped three-pieced suite or fridge.

It was of two sorts: commercial or industrial waste and building rubble. It was creating a growing and serious health hazard, particularly but not only in London. It was costing councils millions of pounds a year to clean up.

Up to 90 per cent of fly-tipped waste in London was coming from construction sites. It might be dumped on open spaces, car parks, industrial estates, even in back gardens.

It was extremely difficult to find who was responsible because anyone could obtain a vehicle and get themselves up as a waste disposal contractor. Legal disposal was expensive and the incentive to break the law was strong.

It had been estimated that there were over a million tonnes of fly-tipped waste on the streets of London at any one time and disposing of it was an enormous burden on ratepayers.

Dumping often happened at night and was accompanied by threats of personal intimidation to residents who lived in the locality. An estimated 15 per cent of the material was toxic. Prosecutions were few.

The Bill introduced registration for operators of controlled waste and authorized the impounding of vehicles suspected of being used in an offence if the owner could not be traced.

A person convicted of a related offence would be removed from the register. Power would be given to the police to stop a vehicle and require the driver to produce authority for transporting waste.



Mrs Ruddock: Power to stop and impound the fly-tippers

consequences... They impose draconian fines that the perpetrators pay willingly and readily as a minor overhead expense.

Proposals for vehicle impounding should be more draconian. There was room in the Bill for the impounding to be permanent.

Mr Simon Hughes (South-west and Bournemouth, Dem) said that there was big money to be made by fly-tippers and the lives of those trying to stop it had been threatened.

On one occasion fly-tippers had produced sawn-off shotguns when approached. On another, an official's home had been visited by men with shotguns.

Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch, C) We must make it so uncomfortable for people going about their messy, dirty, criminal business, that they cease doing it.

Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent

East, Lab) said that the police had told him that organized crime was now involved. One individual could make a profit of £2,000 a week by fly-tipping.

"It needs to be stamped out and ruthlessly," he would be supporting the finest possible police for the police to deal with it.

Mrs Joan Walley, an Opposition spokesman on environmental protection, said that the Bill would provide powers to combat what had become a national disgrace.

Mrs Bottomley said that the Government would give unequivocal support to the parts of the Bill covering registration of carriers, which formed part of the measures the Government proposed to implement. But it had reservations about the proposed means of achieving that.

The Government's proposals would effectively ensure that the increasingly sophisticated crime of fly-tipping would be properly dealt with and that the worst perpetrators no longer escaped without redress.

"No longer will a producer be able to give waste to the first person appearing with a tipper truck at the factory gate. If he does, and that waste turns up illegally dumped, then the producer will be liable to prosecution."

A register of waste carriers was necessary. The Bill gave an opportunity for this to be up and running before the Government's main legislation on waste took effect.

The proposals in the Bill about stopping and confiscating vehicles were attractive, but there were difficulties that had not been ironed out. The Government was consulting on this problem.

Some municipal waste incinerators would not be able to meet new EEC air-pollution controls. Mrs Bottomley told MPs late on Thursday. Most would be able to adapt but a significant increase in costs would be inevitable.

In a debate on two EEC draft directives on pollution emission from municipal incinerators, she said that it would cost £30-40 million to build a new plant to meet the new standards. Conversion of an existing plant could cost up to about £5 million.

The directive for new plants could be ready for agreement on March 2.

### Breath test foiled

A private Member's Bill to allow the police to carry out random breath tests on motorways was "talked out" in the Commons.

Mr Peter Bottomley, after Under Secretary of State for Transport, had indicated little Government support for it.

He said that the police caught a thousand drivers a week who had drunk twice the legal limit. That would not happen with random testing. It must be targeted.

The only sensible advice the Government could give was that drinking and driving did not mix. "Do not combine the bottle with the throttle."

Mr John Hume Robertson (East Lothian, Lab), moving the second reading of his Road Traffic (Breath Tests) Bill, said that a hard core of reckless

motorists did not care about the risk of injuring themselves and others and did not believe that they would get caught.

Half the offenders were upper-middle-class business people aged between 40 and 50. They were difficult for the police to target and so they just drove on until the almost inevitable disaster happened.

Mr Gary Waller (Keighley, C) said that consultations on drink-driving were already in process and it would be pointless to go ahead with legislation before they were concluded.

The International Parliamentary Organizations (Registration) Bill and the Common Land (Rectification of Registers) Bill were given second readings without debate.

### Cardiff Bay development plan advances

A private Bill to allow a £90 million barrage to be built in Cardiff Bay and the development of derelict dockland and waterfront land around the bay was given a second reading in the Lords on Thursday night.

The Bill, the Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill, was introduced by Lord Brooks of Tremorfa (Lab), leader of South Glamorgan County Council and deputy chairman of Cardiff Bay Development Corporation.

The Lords instructed the select committee on the Bill to pay attention to the effects of the development on the quality and the migration of fish between the bay and the sea.

## British Gas are happy to announce an impressive 25% drop in disconnections



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EUROPE'S DRIVING FORCE

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WORLD ROUNDUP

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# US deeply troubled by Nato allies' view of Gorbachov

From Michael Binyon  
Washington

Despite President Bush's public satisfaction with the whirlwind tour of 15 Nato capitals by Mr James Baker, his Secretary of State, the United States is deeply troubled by what he found.

Mr Baker's trip reinforced a worry that is increasingly dogging the Bush Administration and threatens to sour relations with the Western allies: the appeal of President Gorbachov to Europeans, and their perception that Washington is not yet ready to recapture the initiative in East-West relations.

Mr Bush insists that Nato unity is still strong, and emphasized again this week, before leaving for Emperor Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo, that the Nato allies still look to the US for leadership. He

angrily rejected suggestions that American foreign policy was reactive, with Mr Gorbachov now setting the pace in the Middle East and elsewhere.

However, Administration officials have not hidden their alarm at the changing mood in Western Europe and the effect this is having on Alliance policy, especially in West Germany.

Mr Bush refused to speculate on the dispute with Bonn over the modernization of short-range missiles, and Mr Baker's diplomatic side-stepping of the issue in his talks with Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, was a clear attempt to buy time.

Washington nevertheless believes that Mr Gorbachov may have succeeded not only in weakening Nato cohesion, but in permanently driving a wedge between the US and West Germany,

which is the key member of the Alliance.

Mr Baker's aides believe that the US must now challenge the Soviet leader with new ideas, and go on the offensive by showing the West that the Kremlin's proposals are really only the acceptance of long-standing Western demands.

The Secretary of State is hampered by the slow pace with which the new Administration is settling in. He still has not appointed an Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and the long delay in confirming Senator John Tower as Defence Secretary means that Washington cannot hasten its overall strategic assessment. His rejection by the Senate armed services committee yesterday will not have helped.

In the vacuum, with the Administration still running on a skeleton staff, the views of General Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, become increasingly influential — and he has said he foresees a difficult period in ties with Western Europe.

He believes there are three main points of disagreement over relations with the Soviet Union in the Gorbachov era: how swiftly the US should move on arms-control talks, how much credit the Europeans should extend to Moscow, and how much of the defence burden Europe should shoulder.

US officials increasingly mix a fourth area with these — the 1992 integration of the European Community and the prospect of stiffer economic competition.

General Scowcroft is unwilling to move into the policy-making field, but his pessimistic views will strongly influence both Mr Baker and President Bush.

For the moment, Mr Baker has played his cards close to his chest, listening to the views of European allies without revealing long-term US policy. He has expressed concern at European calls for a swift initiative in the Middle East, and said the moment was not yet ripe. Otherwise, his trip was more symbolic, designed more to reassure the allies that they will be closely consulted than to respond to their policy suggestions.

President Bush has said he does not want to be reacting all the time to Mr Gorbachov's high-profile diplomacy, and intends to outline his own agenda for East-West relations. There is little agreement here, however, on what that agenda should be.

A debate is under way in Congress and among Administration officials on how much the US should help the Soviet leader, and whether advocates of caution,

such as Mr Baker and General Scowcroft, are letting slip a historic opportunity.

Democrats are growing restless. Senator Alan Cranston, of California, said last week: "So far, Mr Gorbachov has taken most of the initiatives in arms control. It's time for America to have the courage to lead — to lower the nuclear threshold."

Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate's foreign relations committee, told Mr Baker at his confirmation hearings: "There is no more urgent priority facing you than to continue the momentum of arms control with the Soviet Union, more particularly in the area of strategic weapons."

Moves in Congress to help Mr Gorbachov include a possible one-year suspension of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which links easier trade terms to the emigra-

tion of Soviet Jews. This would require congressional consent, and would spur the whole debate on whether the Cold War is in fact ending and how the US should react if it is.

Mr Baker was strongly reminded that Europe no longer saw the Soviet Union as a military threat, and even US polls point to a change in attitude.

An ABC television poll released on Monday found that 44 per cent of Americans saw the Japanese economy as the greatest challenge to the US, compared with 51 per cent who still saw Soviet military power as the main danger.

Mr Baker knows that the US must find a new approach and new rhetoric if it is to maintain the cohesion of Nato as the alliance approaches its 40th anniversary. So far, little new thinking has emerged from the strategic review.

## Tower débacle threatens to leave lasting damage on Administration

# Bush fails in first test of strength

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The unravelling of the Tower nomination began two weeks ago, when a leading conservative told the Senate that he had several times seen the former senator drunk and in the company of women to whom he was not married.

The testimony of Mr Paul Weyrich was clearly distasteful to Senator Sam Nunn and his colleagues on the Senate armed services committee. They called for a private hearing and behind closed doors sharply criticized Mr Weyrich.

But they were not surprised by what he said. For he did no more than voice the persistent rumours that have swirled around Mr John Tower since the day President Bush nominated him Defence Secretary. The senators were determined not to allow a nomination to slip through which they later regretted, as they did with Mr Edwin Meese, President Reagan's controversial Attorney General. They called for further investigation. But by now the floodgates had been opened. More and more allegations streamed into their offices and into print.

Reports of Mr Tower's sexual misconduct while leading arms control negotiations in Geneva turned up in documents and State Department investigations, growing more lurid with every revelation.

Lobbying payments from arms contractors led into ever murkier waters and more questionable dealings. Stories of public drunkenness were all over town, and although specific instances were hard to prove, a pattern of behaviour was all too clear.

The armed services committee had not intended to inflict this slow death by innuendo. But they had little sympathy for their former colleague. For his arrogance

and the high-handed manner in which he had treated the same committee as its chairman had antagonized many Democrats and Republicans alike. They did not relish the prospect of similar arrogance from him as Secretary of Defence, and were determined to take him down a peg.

But what began as bipartisan and scrupulously fair investigation under the chairmanship of Senator Nunn became increasingly political as the process dragged on, leaving the Pentagon rudderless at a critical moment, embarrassing President Bush and developing into a test of the new President's authority.

As Mr Tower's credibility ebbed with every fresh allegation, Mr Nunn and even conservative Democrats concluded, reluctantly, that his nomination was damaged beyond repair.

Mr Bush knew his choice for the Pentagon was controversial. Many in the transition team tried to talk him out of it. Their concern was not the womanizing and drinking but the fear that Mr Tower would be another Caspar Weinberger, a zealous supporter of a continued military build-up who would be unable to undertake the strategic review and cost-cutting Mr Bush knew was inevitable.

But Mr Bush owed a deep political debt to Mr Tower. The Tower Report on the Iran-Contra scandal was a widely praised and comprehensive investigation that swiftly halted the political damage and enabled the Reagan Administration to recover balance. It also exonerated Mr Bush.

Mr Tower was also one of Mr Bush's earliest supporters when the Vice-President was far from assured of the Republican nomination.



Senator John Warner, right, listening to Senator Sam Nunn at a committee hearing on Mr Tower. Mr Bush later spoke to reporters in Tokyo about the controversy.

The new President saw Mr Tower as "Nixon in China" — the only man with enough pro-defence credibility to take on the Pentagon establishment and cut the budget.

What the President did not see was the slow public destruction of his nominee.

He was unwilling to blame the Democrats because he was calling for bipartisan co-operation and needed their goodwill over the budget. He did not want to put pressure on Senator Nunn, knowing that any challenge to a chairman clearly trying to be fair would be counterproductive.

But the political damage to Mr Bush of such a huge moral and political defeat for his nominee will leave lasting damage.

He has promised now to fight all the way to the finish. But he can already see how the votes will go in the full Senate. For if Mr Nunn and the conservative Democrats have cast their influential recommendation to turn down their former colleague, few other Democrats can now be persuaded to vote for him. Mr Bush must now try to persuade Mr Tower to withdraw.

For President Bush the affair has turned out to be a political disaster. He must prevent further fall-out and rapidly achieve success in some field at home to erase the growing impression that he is an accident-prone President who does not have the political touch or backbone of his predecessor.

## Prince appeals for action on Amazon forest

From Tony Bianchi, Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela

The Prince of Wales explored the rain forest of the Venezuelan Amazon yesterday and talked to Indian chiefs about how best to protect the environment.

The Prince, on the last day of a three-day visit to the country, expressed deep concern about developments which threaten the Amazon, often referred to as the lungs of our planet.

The day's excursion, including a cruise on the Cataparo, a tributary of the huge Orinoco river, took the Royal visitor to several Indian villages.

The Prince urged regional developers to limit their projects to specific urban areas, avoid river pollution and keep deforestation to a minimum.

Venezuelan environmentalists told the Prince of Wales in Caracas on Thursday that the Amazon area was also threatened by a growing invasion of gold miners, mostly from Brazil.

Most miners, who have no exploitation permits, use mercury to separate gold dust, pellets and nuggets from rock and soil. Subsequently this highly toxic substance washes down streams and rivers causing the death of thousands of fish.

The Prince of Wales was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Puerto Ayacucho, a tiny Amazonian capital, yesterday. Practically the whole town took the day off for the occasion.

Picnics in English were displayed at the town's airport proclaiming "Prince, this is your home" and "Welcome to our Amazon", as well as one that read "Say Hello to Lady Di".

The Prince waved to the

crowd and shook hands with a few people before he left to visit jungle villages. Señor Rafael Polania, the Amazonian State Governor, arranged for the Prince to meet a large contingent of English-speaking evangelists who live with the Indians.

He attributed the rousing welcome for the Prince to his "great popularity" as well as the environmental and ecological cause which he defends around the world.

Remarking that the local inhabitants depended on agriculture and their surroundings for their livelihood, Señor Polania asked: "How else could you expect our people to welcome a champion of preservation?"

On Thursday the Prince travelled to the south-western town of Barinas where he inspected the progress of the Simon Bolívar University Institute of Technology and Agriculture, a project he conceived and proposed to President Pérez during his first term in office more than 10 years ago.

The Prince told reporters that the importance of the project was underestimated.

"Success in the investigations carried out here on how to improve agriculture, the ecology and local flora and produce is an important breakthrough and similar institutes can be reproduced in many other parts of the world."

The Prince of Wales's visit to South America coincided with the first joint political action by 20 Amazon rain forest tribes. More than 500 Indians gathered in the Brazilian jungle town of Altamira to protest against planned hydroelectric dams that would flood their land.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Irish soldier killed in south Lebanon

Jerusalem — An Irish soldier of the United Nations force in southern Lebanon was killed yesterday by machine-gun fire from a unit of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army". United Nations sources said (Richard Owen writes). The soldier was killed at a checkpoint at Hadatha in Israel's self-imposed security zone, the Unifil spokesman, Mr Timor Goksel, announced.

Mr Goksel said the shooting appeared to come from an SLA position. Colonel Patrick Keogh of Unifil said the SLA had fired from a distance of about one mile. "We don't know why the soldier was shot," Colonel Keogh said. Other Unifil officers said there had been several incidents in which SLA units had fired at UN troops at Hadatha. They said the incidents were reported to Israel, which had not responded. The latest shooting follows protests by Unifil against Israeli actions in the security zone, including the expulsion of local Arabs identified as being hostile to the SLA.

### British yacht seized

Lisbon — Portugal's Customs police intercepted a British yacht near Sagres on the Algarve coast on Thursday night and said they had found nearly 3,000lb of hashish on board (Michele de la Cui writes). The crew consisted of two Britons and one Dutchman, who were charged yesterday. Portuguese police declined to reveal the names of the men, but it was known that the British captain was around 40 years old and was from Cannock, Staffordshire. The yacht had sailed from North Africa. British diplomats in Portugal said they had not been informed of the arrests.

### Berlin death protest

Berlin (AFP) — Britain, France and the US lodged a sharp protest yesterday against the killing, by East German border guards at the Berlin Wall, of a waiter fleeing to freedom. East Germany was violating a fundamental right by gunning him down, Mr Anthony Sarti, the spokesman for the US mission here, said in a joint statement by the city's three Western military commanders. Chris Gueffroy, aged 20, was shot, trying to swim to the West on February 6. He was buried in East Berlin on Thursday. Another man was seriously wounded in the same escape attempt.

### 'Disorderly' visions

Rome (AFP) — An Italian judge has charged Senator Renato Baron, a pensioner, with abusing popular beliefs by claiming that he has been seeing and talking to the Virgin Mary for nearly three years. The judge at Salvo, near Venice, the site of the visions, said that the law provided for prison sentences of up to three months for anyone who tried to abuse popular credulity by deceit, threatening to disperse public order.

### Bhopal millions paid

Delhi (Reuters) — Union Carbide handed over \$465 million (£264 million) to the Indian Supreme Court yesterday, the outstanding balance of the court's \$470 million judgement to compensate victims of the Bhopal tragedy. Afterwards an Indian lawyer filed a writ asking the court to increase the compensation judgement to \$600 million.

## Hirohito ceremonies accompanied by protests

By Our Foreign Staff

Solemn ceremonies in Tokyo for Emperor Hirohito contrasted with noisy protests around the world as war veterans denounced his role during the Second World War.

Protesters in South Korea, denouncing him as "man-kind's biggest war criminal," and burnt Japanese flags in two cities. Riot police blocked about 70 demonstrators from marching on the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. Police took 10 marchers into custody.

In the southern city of Pusan, about 60 protesters burnt a Japanese flag near the Japanese consulate and demanded that Japan apologize for war atrocities.

In Australia, former servicemen chartered a plane to fly a "Let's We Forget" banner over the capital, Canberra.

The flag at the Australian War Memorial in the capital was flying at full mast after outraged reaction from servicemen forced the Government to water down a directive ordering all government buildings to fly flags at half-mast to mark the funeral. War Memorial staff, all-

owed to decide whether the flag should be lowered, said they had left it at full mast out of respect for the feelings of former servicemen and the families of those who had died at the hands of the Japanese.

More than a third of the 22,000 Australians captured by the Japanese in the war died in prisoner-of-war camps, where starvation and torture were widespread.

● TOKYO: Perhaps for the

last time, Emperor Hirohito yesterday stirred the Japanese people to a range of powerful emotions from sadness to anger. But the most widespread emotion of all appeared to be indifference (Jonathan Braude writes).

Mr Nobuyoshi Tachimura, who braved the cold and drizzle to watch the coffin transfer at the palace, said it would be the last great funeral in his lifetime. He wanted to

catch the moment of passing of the old era and outpour the Emperor's responsibility for the war. "There is no point in discussing this endlessly," he said.

The Fujikawa family travelled across Japan for the funeral, but were disappointed at the modernity of the ceremony. "The last Emperor was carried slowly on a barge pulled by cows. Now the era is different. The hearse was a car

and just sped past us," said Mr Fujikawa.

He believed the Emperor was not the only one to blame for the war, and that all the Japanese people should bear responsibility.

Mr Fujikawa complained that the flurry of funeral diplomacy — visiting dignitaries are taking advantage of the international gathering to exchange views — was undignified. But Mr Nobuyoshi

thought that the diplomats should be allowed to get on with their job.

Mr Yasuaki Mizuno, aged 76, remembered the war, but said he spent it as a civilian working for a Japanese company in Saigon and had come to the funeral only because he had found his office closed.

A public opinion poll of 1,060 adults conducted by the Tokyo Broadcasting System showed 60 per cent of Japanese believe the Emperor was at least partly responsible for the war.

This belief was demonstrated by anti-imperialist groups round the country who held rallies in protest at what the Japanese Communist Party described as a government campaign to glorify the late Emperor.

At the stroke of noon, when the new Emperor was leading Japan in a minute of silent prayer, a group in Okinawa broke into cries of "Let us think about the responsibility of the Emperor".

Many Japanese, even in the few public places where the ceremony was broadcast, ignored the minute's silence.

## Duke laying wreath to appease war veterans

From Jonathan Braude, Tokyo

The laying of wreaths by the Duke of Edinburgh and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama this morning is intended to appease war veterans incensed that they attended the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

The ceremony is, however, unlikely to allay criticism of the Duke's attendance, and he was fully prepared for some

disruption by disgruntled war veterans. Although only 15 British ex-servicemen now living in Japan were included in plans for the ceremony, war veterans are never refused entry to the cemetery.

To the Duke, who fought in the Far East in the Second World War, the cemetery must have as much significance as for any of those now criticizing his visit.

Nearly 1,300 British ser-

vicemen and more than 470 men from the British Commonwealth who fought beside them against the Japanese are buried in the cemetery.

Most fell victim to the brutal conditions in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, but many were also killed in allied bombing raids and naval bombardments as the war drew to a close.

Barred in the cemetery is

one holder of the Victoria Cross and the air commodore who established and commanded the Royal Indian Air Force and commanded the British forces in Korea.

A bronze casket, inscribed with the names of those whose ashes it holds, stands in a shrine which bears the inscription: "There may be of them, that have left a name behind them that their praises might be reported."

## New constitution for Algeria

By Susan MacDonald

Algerians have voted to adopt a new constitution which does away with their socialist state and opens the way for a multi-party system, replacing a rigid one-party form of government which has lasted 27 years.

The 73 per cent approval given in a national referendum on Thursday is, however, lower than the percentage which approved a first set of liberalizing reforms in a referendum last November and the percentage that voted to President Chadli for a third term in December.

This reflects a fading among Algerians that they may be taken for a ride. The new constitution paves the way for sweeping changes. The armed forces, who have played a key role in running

the country since the Algerian war of independence, will now concentrate only on defence.

The ideals of socialism no longer figure in the text. It breaks the monopoly of the National Liberation Front, in power since independence in 1962, by allowing the formation of political organizations outside the grouping.

Public-sector workers are given the previously denied right to strike and freedom of expression and freedom of the press will be dealt with in the first of a series of new laws to be presented to the now more powerful National Assembly in the coming weeks.

It appears that President Chadli has, in a short space of time, managed to control the Army and break the resistance

of the ruling party. But discontent simmers right through the party and Army. Some trade unions too instructed members to vote against the new constitution.

The greatest fear of the majority of Algerians is to see Islamic fundamentalism come to power.

But poverty together with the overt flaunting of wealth linked to a Western style of life provides fertile ground for those who preach Islamic fervour.

The fundamentalist threat stretches across North Africa. From Morocco to Egypt, each country's leader knows he must find a way of improving living standards and creating participation in political life if he is to thwart it.

## Golden fleece amazes farmer

Robert Cockburn, Sydney

A single bale of wool has fetched a record £136,000 after intense bidding by international fabric manufacturers at an auction in Launceston, Tasmania.

In 10 minutes of frantic bidding Japan's Fujii Corporation succeeded in increasing by almost eight-fold the previous record paid for wool by paying £1,360 a kilo (2.2lb).

Mr Ken Fujii, head of the Japanese concern, was bidding against stiff competition from Italy's two manufacturers, Lanificio Titano and Loro Piana, in a ritual that has more to do with publicity value than the growing price of wool in the highly competitive fashion world.

Fujii eventually intends to

turn the superfine strands of merino wool into 150 men's suits, 50 men's coats and 50 women's coats to be retailed to the exclusive Japanese fashion market. The firm makes suits for the Imperial Family in Japan.

Mr Fujii will first parade his bale around a number of publicity events for his corporation in Australia and Japan.

"It is a PR job," explained Mr John O'Connor of the Australian Wool Corporation, who was reported as saying that the advertising and promotional value was worth far more than the exorbitant price that had been paid.

That will have no influence on the general wool market where the ordinary trading

price only managed to reach 30 per cent less than the prices that were being paid last May.

But for Mr Roderic O'Connor, a sheep farmer who runs the Coanorville Station, a merino stud, at Cressy in northern Tasmania, the sale of that one bale is the equivalent of around 40 per cent of his expected annual wool sales.

He said he looked on "in absolute amazement" as his wool went up in price at the auction.

He said: "It just goes to show what a strong wool industry can do for this country, especially at the top end of the market. I am just pleased they chose our bale to set the record." Mr O'Connor's station has held the world record to 1967.





## Human cost of the Afghanistan war

## UN finds the destruction 'worse than in Beirut'

From Christopher Walker, Kabul

A shocking picture of the physical and human devastation caused by the war in Afghanistan has emerged in a new United Nations report, the first in which independent United Nations observers were able to investigate conditions outside Kabul since the Soviet invasion in December, 1979.

Much of the report concentrates on Herat, a city of some 140,000 people, acknowledged to have been badly hit than other provincial centres such as Jalalabad and Kandahar, where fierce fighting prevented investigation.

The UN team, which discovered that boys as young as eight years old were regularly ambushing Russians in the bazaar with hand grenades, reported that 40 per cent of the houses had been destroyed, as had most buildings along the first nine miles of main roads leading out of the city. Of 1,300 villages in Herat province, 600 were either damaged or destroyed.

"The school system has practically collapsed," the report said. "The majority of schools have been destroyed. Many others are seriously damaged and have little, if any, teaching aids, school books or furniture. Primary school teachers are very rare. Some 400 are reported to have been killed."

The report, a copy of which was obtained by *The Times* yesterday, is regarded as important by the handful of foreign diplomats still in Kabul because it provides detailed information which cannot be dismissed as biased. "It has confirmed some of our worst fears," one diplomat said.

Mr Ross Mountain, a New Zealander and one of the eight-strong UN team which visited Herat last September, said: "The devastation was depressing to see. It was as bad as, if not worse than, Beirut. Because of the security problems, we were unable to get out more than a few miles into the countryside, but it is fair to assume that things were even worse there."

Requests by newsmen to visit the city in recent days have been rejected by the Afghan authorities because of

fighting between government troops and the Muslim rebels. This is understood to have escalated since the final Soviet retreat.

In the field of health, the UN found that in the rural areas around Herat, which borders on Iran, there was an average of one doctor for every 50,000 Afghan inhabitants. Infant mortality was estimated at a staggering 185 for every 1,000 live births and 85 per cent of child deaths were caused by diarrhoea or lack of immunization.

"The health and nutrition situation is critical," the report said. "Women and children are most severely affected. Those basic health care facilities which still exist have little or no drugs or supplies."

Mr Mountain said: "The trip was a terrible reminder that even before the war,



Afghanistan was one of the poorest countries in the world. It will take years and hundreds of millions of dollars just to return to the unenviable position it was in before the Russians arrived in 1979."

In Herat's main provincial hospital, the UN investigators discovered that 373 amputations had been performed between 1983 and 1988, most on young children under the age of 15 and most as a result of anti-personnel mines. A further 750 amputations had taken place in other, less sophisticated, medical facilities in the area over the same period.

"The problem was made even greater because there was not a single facility for making or supplying artificial limbs in the whole city," Mr Mountain said. "For the children especially, this made coping with the loss of a limb or limbs even more horrific. And we know that because of mines,

the problem could get even more serious when the refugees return."

Herat, a historic city first rebuilt after its conquest by Alexander the Great in the fourth century BC, relies largely on agriculture to provide a living for its inhabitants, many of whom have fled to a dubious welcome in Iran.

The UN found that irrigated acreage had dropped to just over half the prewar levels, and that agricultural production had suffered a similar slump.

"As well as the physical devastation, there was the vital human factor," Mr Mountain said.

The UN official, whose work encouraging Afghan development projects is hampered by the serious security situation in Kabul, which is under siege from rebels to the north and south, added: "My main concern is that, now the Russians have left, international interest in Afghanistan will decline just when these appalling human problems have to be dealt with."

Initial UN figures show that \$1.1 billion (£600 million) will be needed over the next 18 months to deal with the refugee problem. No estimate has been reached as to how much will be required to reconstruct a country so ravaged by war that many of its regions resemble moonscapes.

The UN report, part of the organization's Afghan rescue programme code-named "Operation Salam (peace)", also showed that the situation was equally serious in those parts of Afghanistan which have been handed over to effective Mujahidin control.

A different UN team, which travelled 250 grueling miles in the southern Paktia province between December 18 and 22, said: "The health situation is critical. Not a single doctor was present in the area inspected. All the schools are closed, the teachers gone. Mines scattered on roads and fields create constant risks and restrict free movement."

● **RAWALPINDI:** Afghan insurgents launched their new government-in-exile yesterday by demanding the country's

seat at the United Nations and calling on supporters of the Kabul administration to desert it (Reuters reports).

Professor Sibghatullah Mujadidi, a moderate, who was elected head of the Mujahidin government on Thursday, also offered an amnesty to most Kabul officials. He added that his government hoped to meet inside Afghanistan within a month.

"We request the United Nations to give the seat of Afghanistan to the legal government of the Mujahidin," he said at a news conference at the close of the *shura*, a consultative council, which elected him.

"We call on our brothers still working with the puppet regime to join the ranks of the Mujahidin," he stated. "We offer a general amnesty for all those whose hands are not stained with the blood of our brothers."

He did not offer any definition of those not covered by the amnesty, but after previous such offers Mujahidin officials said only about 1,000 people would be exempted. They include President Najibullah and other top ranking members of his government, now fighting alone after the departure on February 15 of the last Soviet troops.

The exceptions also include members of the Khad secret police whom the Mujahidin accuse of torturing prisoners, the officials said.

The government-in-exile was voted into office after nearly two weeks of feuding between moderates and fundamentalists joined in a seven-party Pakistan-based alliance and a boycott by eight smaller groups based in Iran.

"We shall meet within one month," *insallah* (God willing), inside "Afghanistan," Professor Mujadidi said.

He appeared to be reflecting Mujahidin hopes that they could quickly take either Jalalabad or Herat and establish the government there. The professor said he would be executive president and announced some clarification of the complex system under which *shura* delegates voted for two of the seven Pakistan-based parties.

## Captain guilty in boat people case



Captain Alexander Balian, US Navy, accusing his superior of making a scapegoat of him after he was found guilty yesterday of dereliction of duty in failing to adequately help a boatload of Vietnamese refugees who later resorted to cannibalism to survive.

But the court only sought a reprimand for Captain Balian, who dismissed the two-week trial at Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines as a waste of money and a political exercise designed to save the Navy's image at his expense (AFP reports).

The highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran, aged 48, was relieved as commander of the USS Dubuque after he was accused of abandoning a group of boat people encountered in the South China Sea on June 9, 1988.

Survivors who reached the Philippines disclosed that members of the group murdered three of their companions and cooked their flesh for food after supplies left by the Dubuque ran out. Only 52 of the 110 refugees survived the 37-day ordeal.

Captain Balian reacted angrily after the proceedings and lashed out at unnamed superiors whom he blamed for dashing his hopes of becoming an admiral.

"I was headed for good things," he said in a voice choked with emotion, complaining that the findings would prevent him from going to sea again. He said he was being assigned back to the United States.

## Papandreou under party pressure

From Maria Modiano, Athens

Trusted associates who once believed the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) could not survive without the charismatic leadership of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, now argue that it may be better if he were to step down before the June elections.

As a result, a chorus within the party is openly challenging his leadership. Doubts deepened after the disgraced banker, Mr George Koskotas, who faces extradition proceedings in the United States, claimed in a handwritten letter that he bought the luxurious King George Hotel in central Athens at the Prime Minister's behest in 1986 because its debt-ridden owner had given Mr Papandreou free use of a seaside villa for his extramarital affair with Mrs Dimitra Liani, the former airline stewardess.

Mr Dimitris Doris, Athens director of public prosecutions, has ordered an inquiry into Mr Koskotas's allegations that the transaction, valued at £2.6 million, was made possible only after the Government waived half the owner's £11.3 million debt to the state as an act of favouritism.

Mr Koskotas, who is wanted in Greece on charges of embezzling more than £120 million from deposits entrusted to his Bank of Crete, claims to possess evidence that he bribed the Government to condone his activities.

Mr Doris also ordered an inquiry into the reasons that prompted 14 state corporations and services to increase their deposits with the Bank of Crete from £45 million to £77 million just as the scandal broke last summer, touching off a run on the bank.

The Greek Parliament on Wednesday extended until the end of March the mandate of the all-party parliamentary commission investigating the involvement of government officials in the Koskotas affair. A 17-man panel is to interrogate the jailed banker in the United States.

Earlier, the commission's Socialist majority had voted to wind up its business without interviewing Mr Koskotas. It reversed its decision after receiving a letter from the prisoner challenging them to hear his testimony.

Letters and documents linked to Greek newspapers this week suggested an un-

usual familiarity between Mr Koskotas and Mr Papandreou, as well as their close aides. In some letters, Mr Koskotas offered the Government advice on how to silence critics by perfunctory audits of the Bank of Crete, but also on how to confound the opposition.

As calls for the Prime Minister's resignation multiply, Mr Papandreou keeps a low profile. Even the Government's reactions to daily allegations of fresh scandals sound muted. An opinion poll last week for the first time showed the Prime Minister's popularity in the party had dropped to fifth rank.

Mr Papandreou is expected to counter-attack tomorrow when he is to give a pep talk to a national gathering of Socialist party cadres.

## Roh's foreign successes fail to placate Koreans

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea, who marks his first year in power today, faces the unwelcome prospect of fulfilling a campaign promise to give a public anniversary accounting.

The former general became the first man in the country's history to assume office peacefully after a democratic election. He promised to rid the Government of its authoritarian image while maintaining social stability. Critics, increasing on both left and right, say that he has failed to deliver.

"He is a weak leader," said Professor Lee Jung Bock, a political science specialist at Seoul National University. "He has worked too much on foreign affairs. He has neglected domestic problems."

Fearing defeat in his campaign, Mr Roh, aged 56, pledged to give the people a second chance to judge him if elected. Such a proposition would have easily gone Mr Roh's way had not his ruling Democratic Justice Party lost its majority in April's National Assembly elections.

The timing and form of Mr Roh's confidence vote could be announced as soon as Friday, when the President plans a press conference to

mark his anniversary, according to party officials. "We are not chicken," Mr Park Doo Kyu, the ruling party chairman, said, referring to a popular vote.

The opposition has attacked the President for blocking punishment of his predecessor and mentor, Mr Chun Doo Hwan, who fled to domestic exile in a Buddhist monastery three months ago. This week, ruling party legislators boycotted National Assembly hearings investigating misdeeds of Mr Chun's administration.

Meanwhile, hardliners inside the ruling party complain that Mr Roh is letting the country slip towards anarchy, amid rising crime and



President Roh: Accused of ignoring domestic ills.

growing protests by farmers, radical students and unions. There has been almost no talk, however, of the kind of military coup that ended previous democratic interludes in South Korea.

Despite failing to please most South Koreans, Mr Roh has presided over a series of stunning achievements. The economy grew 12 per cent last year. Press and labour freedom are unprecedented. The judiciary has gained new independence. Torture of political prisoners has virtually ended. The entire country felt a short-lived burst of pride as Seoul hosted the Olympics.

Mr Roh has also made strides in foreign relations. Hungary became the first communist nation to establish full diplomatic relations. Soviet and Chinese trade ties are mushrooming. But the Government has had to cool overheated expectations for reunification following a breakdown in political and military talks with North Korea.

"If you look at the past year, you can say it's been extremely successful," a European diplomat said. "Unfortunately, that's not the way Koreans see it. He can't win. Roh Tae Woo can't win."

## Israeli journalists to be prosecuted

Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Israeli journalists kept up its defiant refusal to have anything to do with the Palestine Liberation Organization or its chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, despite swift moving events in the Middle East after this week's visit to Cairo by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Israeli officials said that Israeli journalists who met Mr Arafat in Cairo on Thursday would be prosecuted for breaking Israeli law, which forbids contacts with the PLO.

Israel also claimed yesterday that an infiltration attempt in southern Lebanon by Palestinian extremists — the second such attempt in a

month — was proof that the PLO had not kept its promise to renounce terrorism, and that the US dialogue with the PLO was a grave mistake. Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, yesterday returned from Paris vowing that Israel would never talk to the PLO because it did not want peace with Israel.

Nonetheless many Israelis saw the ground-breaking news conference given by Mr Arafat to Israeli reporters in Cairo as part of a process under which the Israeli taboo on contacts with the PLO is being eroded.

The Cairo meeting follows several encounters between dovish Israeli MPs and PLO

figures in Europe. There have also been persistent reports of indirect contacts between senior Israeli figures and the PLO as Israel searches for ways to end the 15-month Palestinian *intifada* or uprising in the occupied territories.

In another extraordinary event this week, Mr Arafat's deputy, Abu Iyad, addressed delegates to a conference on peace in the Middle East held in Jerusalem by means of a video tape.

On the video Abu Iyad appealed emotionally for compromise, saying the PLO no longer demanded the whole of Palestine and was willing to review the PLO

Covenant, which lays down the destruction of Israel as a basic aim. At his press conference in Cairo, Mr Arafat said the Palestinians "right of return" remained "sacred", but "I know and you know that not all Palestinians will return".

For Israeli Government officials, however, the ban on contacts with the PLO — seen as a terrorist organization — is no laughing matter. Some draw an analogy with the British ban on interviews with the IRA, and say the ban is intended to avoid precisely the kind of "publicity gimmick" they say Mr Arafat staged in Cairo.

## India opposition plagued by infighting

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Bitter infighting is threatening to destroy the fragile unity of the opposition forces which came together late last year to form a political party to challenge the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The battle between the warring barons of the new party is over who shall allocate party tickets to candidates in the forthcoming general election.

Already some senior party officials have quit and seem set to re-establish the party from whence they came. The

new opposition grouping, the Janata Dal, was formed when the old Janata party (a coalition which had been formed and divided several times), came together with two wings of the Lok Dal and half of a splinter of the ruling Congress (I) party called Congress (S).

The other half of Congress (S), led by the popular Mr Sharad Pawar, had already rejoined the main Congress party and Mr Pawar has become the chief minister of his home state. But now four

leaders of the new party seem set to break up the new alliance.

The ostensible leader is being shown as weak and indecisive, and is unable to hold them together. He is Mr V.P. Singh, who was Mr Gandhi's finance minister, and later defence minister, who left office over his inquiries into corruption and bribery within the Government.

He walked out of one of the long negotiating sessions this

week complaining that he would not be browbeaten by the other members. He was persuaded back inside only after a public display of petulance. The man he was complaining about was Mr Chandra Shekhar. He is a former president of Janata who has long seen himself as a future prime minister.

The other two battling warlords are Mr Devi Lal, Chief Minister of Haryana, and Mr Ajit Singh, son of a former Prime Minister.

## Life for Lebanese hijacker

Geneva — Husscio Ali Mohammed Hariri, who hijacked an Air Afrique DC-10 on July 24, 1987, and shot dead a French passenger after the airliner landed at Geneva, was jailed for life by a Swiss court yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

Hariri, aged 23, a Lebanese Shia linked with the Hezbollah, showed no emotion as the judgement was read out in the Federal Penal Court in Lausanne.

## Jews protest

Stockholm (Reuters) — Sweden plans to implement a ban outlawing all Jewish ritual slaughter of animals, despite protests from Jewish leaders.

## Jail mutiny

Rabat (Reuters) — Several people were taken to hospital after clashes between prisoners and warders during a mutiny in the overcrowded El-Alou prison, Rabat.

## Farm murders

Amritsar (Reuters) — Sikh extremists dressed as police shot dead the five men of a Punjab farming family, leaving 13 women and girls without husbands or fathers and a boy aged 10 as head of the extended family.

## King's mercy

Oslo (Reuters) — King Olav of Norway has pardoned a Dutch prisoner who was bullied by fellow-inmates after a letter confirming he was carrying the Aids virus was posted on the prison noticeboard by mistake.

## Desperate act

Peking (Reuters) — A Chinese mother strangled her three-month-old daughter so she could divorce a ferocious husband to whom she had been sold after he raped her, the *Farmers Daily* said.

## Reactor alert

Gravelines (AFP) — A section of Europe's largest electro-nuclear plant, situated in this northern French town, was shut down after a minor water leak was discovered in a building housing one of its reactors.

## Posers held

Bangkok (AFP) — An American model and her photographer have been arrested for allegedly posing lewdly near a Buddhist statue, thereby desecrating the shrine.

## Hungarian leaders agree to talks on power-sharing coalition

From Sallie Ecroyd, Budapest

After months of indecision over the direction of its political reforms, Hungary's ruling Communist Party has finally plumped for all-out efforts to build a coalition with its opponents.

As proof of the decision, the Central Committee formally agreed this week that the party should surrender the guaranteed "leading role in society" it has enjoyed for the past 40 years, and omit that phrase from the new constitution.

A day later, the Communists launched a programme of negotiations which will bring them face to face with the country's independent groups and newly formed political parties, in an attempt to win allies and agree a formula for power-sharing.

"Our aim is not to hand over power, but to share it," Mr Gyorgy

Fejtu, the head of the party's negotiating team, said. "This is not because of our insistence on power, but because there is no other political force in the country which is capable of governing at present."

The negotiations, however, follow implicit recognition that the party itself is no longer capable of governing alone. The independent and opposition groups have exploited months of indecision and hesitant leadership to strengthen their position and seize the initiative in dictating the pace of change.

Earlier this month, the Central Committee responded to their insistent calls for democracy with agreement to make the transition to a multi-party system.

Faced, however, with falling membership and rising discontent at declining living standards, party leaders have no intention of turning next year's elections into a scramble for power. Even the Politburo's most ardent reformer,

Mr Imre Pozsgay, favours elections by national list with the different forces allocated seats under an agreed power-sharing plan.

A "monopolistic and monopolistic" exercise of power over 40 years has left the party, he said, as a "monopoly".

Moscow (AP) — A Soviet historian, Mr Andranik Migranyan, said in the latest edition of *Moscow News* that his country and Hungary ought to conduct a joint reassessment of the Soviet military intervention that crushed the Hungarian uprising of 1956.

the only force with the means for governing. "In such a situation, free elections would result in chaos. Without reconciliation the risk of tension is much too great. And nobody wants to see 1956 again."

Observers now see the coalition as possibly the party's only hope of retaining power at all, without risking a repeat of the 1956

uprising or at least an explosion of overtly hostile opposition.

First signs for co-operation do not look hopeful. The party this year bowed to popular pressure to declare a national holiday on March 15 to mark the 1948 uprising against Austrian domination. But its invitation for the nation to join the celebrations was rebuffed by the main independent group, which swiftly pointed out that up until last year their members had been victims of a police force, authorized to prevent any such commemoration.

Instead the groups announced plans for a separate demonstration, including a march through Parliament Square, the only remaining place in the country where the new right to assembly is expressly withheld.

They have also drawn up a 12-point statement of demands in preparation for the anniversary, which closely echo student de-

mands of 1948 for "free elections, a neutral Hungary and freedom for the people of Eastern and Central Europe". Among the five groups behind them is the Hungarian Democratic Forum whose 15,000 members are thought to be the party's most likely allies.

The opposition refusal to join the party on March 15 is a sign of a much wider reluctance to rush into co-operation.

"The independent groups don't want to lose voters before they've gained them," said one Western diplomat. "They're not prepared to rush straight into bed with the party. They want several dances first."

They also want guarantees that a coalition period would in fact lead to free, Western-style elections in 1993. Those guarantees have not been forthcoming so far.

The party's efforts to retain control, even of a coalition, are not made easier by nagging divisions

within the Politburo. The decision to introduce the multi-party system, however gradually, meant a damaging *volte face* for the party leader, Mr Karoly Grosz, who had insisted up to the last minute that political pluralism should develop within the framework of a one-party system.

Even that process has not proved controllable. In the spirit of "pluralism", the party began consulting the independent groups about its plans, only to find them rejected as undemocratic.

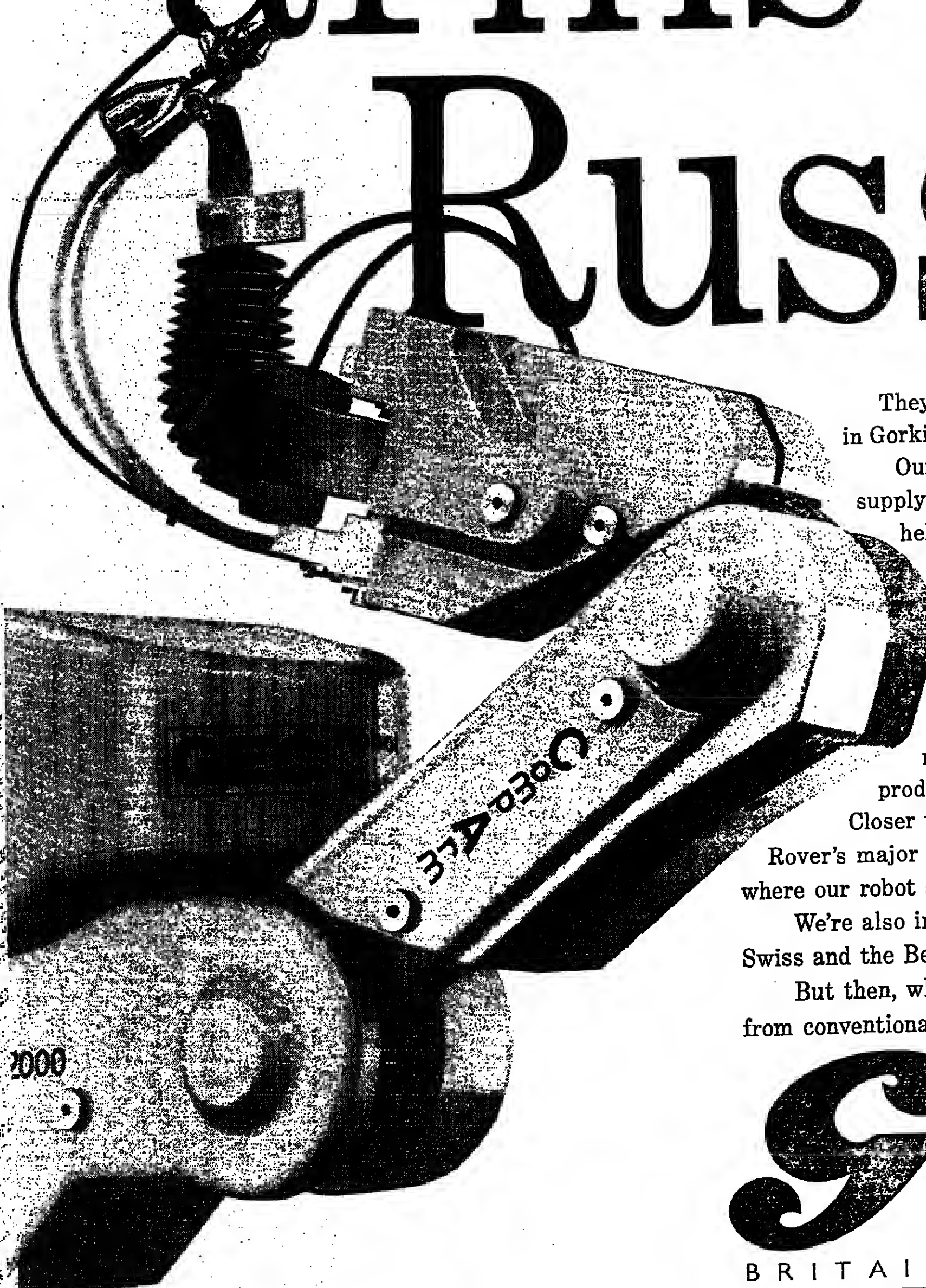
● "Solidarity" plan: Hungarian workers, attacking the Government for squandering their labour, yesterday announced plans to set up the country's first free blue-collar union, modelled on Solidarity in Poland (Reuters reports).

"We think workers' interests are best defended by workers themselves," Mr Mihaly Botyan Kiss said in announcing the launch of Workers' Solidarity.



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# GEC

BRITAIN'S POWERHOUSE



# TIMES DIARY

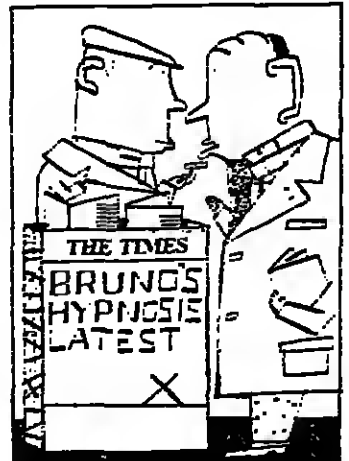
SIMON BARNES

MPs have this week been given an immaculately staged preview of what the world will be like when the identity card comes to football. This fascinating exercise, animated research into the vexed question of whether the technology is up to the vision of 1994, was staged at Westminster underground station, the station our rulers use. Like many other stations, it has installed magic electronic gates which, hey presto — provided you insert a valid ticket — swing open to let you through. No valid ticket, the gates stay shut. The age of cheating and fare-dodging, it would seem, is at an end. But at Westminster the machines have been out of order all week. They were kept wide open, enabling people to walk straight through, ticket or no ticket. The more widely travelled MPs will note that the same has happened at other stations using this, as it were, identity card system. A further glimpse into the future was provided by a member of the staff at Westminster tube station, who confided to one man hurrying to the House: "These things never bloody well work. We keep 'em open, because otherwise everybody gets had-tempered." I wonder if the Orwellian figure of Colin Moynihan, Minister of Sport, aka Little Brother, is watching at Westminster station.

The other week I wrote about pompous golfers (it would surely be unkind to suggest that this is a tautology). Now I hear about pingpong pomposity. The English Table Tennis Association has circulated a letter rebuking Peter Lawson, secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, for a remark attributed to him in a newspaper. He is supposed to have said: "The Sports Council does not organize so much as a pingpong match." The letter expresses all the existential anguish of the table tennis man: pingpong is a "pejorative term", it says, one which "undermines the status of an Olympic sport". Because of Lawson's remarks, the association is wondering whether or not to remain a member of the CCPR. English-speaking athletes play foxy and rugged, which are affectionate diminutives, and I fear that the pingpong lobby doth protest too much. Never mind, this is a great game, both to watch and to play, and indeed, this column possesses a devastating forehand loop. This is the column that supports pingpong.

On to the Guatemalan Nordic Skiing team, which has been taking part this week in the Nordic Skiing Championships at Lahti, Finland. The members ran out of money in midweek but received instant sponsorship when Radio City, a Finnish rock and roll station, heard of their problems. At the heart of the seven-man team are the three Burgos brothers, Dag, Rene, Ricardo and Ivare, Guatemalans with a Norwegian mother. "The nearest thing to winter in Guatemala is when I open the fridge," said Ricardo. Dag said: "The first Nordic skiing event I entered was over 50 kilometres. I must have been crazy. It took me four hours. For the last five or ten kilometres there were 70-year-olds carrying big bags and flasks of coffee whizzing past me. Small children, too. I was so embarrassed I tried to hide my race number." The Guatemalans have not been last to everything. In one race they beat a rival Latino, a Mexican. "When we passed him," Ricardo said, "the president of the Guatemalan Olympic Committee was jumping up and down and shouting. At the finish line, he was crying with joy." In the 15km freestyle, the team managed 88th and 89th places out of 91, beating a Greek and a Dane who was disqualified. But in the slalom they were less impressive. One Guatemalan went off course and hit a tree. Ricardo said philosophically: "After every competition we are one less."

BARRY FANTONI



"The plan is to get Frank used to the idea of suddenly being put to sleep"

After I had written about cricket on the ice at St Moritz, Seven Lynch, deputy editor of the magazine *Wilden Cricket Monthly*, tells me that it has not only been done before, but by women, and that the great Charlotte "Lottie" Dod was one of them. Dod won the ladies singles at Wimbledon five times, the first time in 1887, when she was 15. She went to St Moritz in 1894 and was one of the first women to attempt the Cresta Run. She took part in an ice-cricket match between the ladies of St Moritz and those of Davos, and she played in skates. In her opening spell she took five wickets for four runs. Mr Lynch gathered these facts from Max Robertson's book *Wimbledon: Centre Court of the Game*.

Among the many and various problems of the England football team's World Cup qualifying match in Albania next week, there is the question of hair. The government of this most repressive of East European bureaucracies allows neither long hair nor full beards — frightfully *viens jeu*, but then Albania is not on the cutting edge of modern life. The soccer paper *When Saturday Comes* is organizing a coach party of 50 — with a pre-trip trim before setting off. The editor, John Duncan, says the party will also learn a few words of Albanian to "create the right impression". (What is Albanian for "ere we go")? Judging by the flowing-haired Swedes, who played in Albania recently, it would seem that players are above the law.

In a leader published last July this newspaper warned: "If Mr Ashdown thinks he can see Dr Owen off without disaster to his own party he should think again." As we made clear last autumn at a turbulent meeting in Blackpool, the same advice is equally applicable to both former Alliance partners.

Third and fourth parties, trapped to a first-past-the-post system, must come to terms with one another, just as they need the oxygen of by-election victories to provide the momentum for political progress.

Richmond and Pontypridd, just like Epping Forest and Kensington before them, demonstrate what happens when old friends fall out and when partners become predators preying on each other. A pointless competition for second and third places is about as rational and cost-effective as our members subscribing to Tory funds.

Richmond and Epping could have been landslide victories for the centre. But, as we learned last year, with our forces locked in a fratricidal struggle, it is impossible to replicate the triumphs of Crosby or Bermondsey. By indulging in inter-party annihilation we will doubtless have the opportunity to pay off old scores, but to this war of attrition there will be few survivors and only one beneficiary: Mrs Thatcher.

The voters are becoming increasingly disillusioned with the failure of the opposition to come to terms with the electoral verdict — that no one opposition

party commands sufficient respect to form a government. Millions responded to the Alliance because it represented a genuine attempt to seek partnership and co-operation across the political divide. Its support of proportional representation underlined that conviction. It is downright hypocritical to advocate proportional representation but not then to accept the inter-party co-operation which is part and parcel of that system. We are not advocating a return to the old Alliance formula. The position of the Labour Party is now central to the new thinking which is required. It is paradoxical that just at the time when increasing numbers of Labour MPs are recognizing

the need to seek agreement between the opposition parties, and are examining the case for electoral reform, we at the centre have abandoned the patient and deliberate role of catalyst. Instead of continuing the realignment of politics we are merely indulging in internecine warfare and petty wrangling.

This simply will not wash. Political leaders are not infallible, and strategy must be open to review. Futile trench warfare will lead to even more casualties on both sides. It takes real courage to admit a mistake and to seek negotiations rather than a bloody fight to the finish.

Our two parties should now do this. First, let them agree to non-aggression pacts for the Euro-

elections in June and come to sensible arrangements for local government elections. Then they must seek a dialogue with all those in the Labour Party who are prepared to work with us to deny the Tories a fourth term. The first priority would be to explore common ground, the next to develop an agreed programme for government, and the third objective must be to see whether such a meeting of minds might lead to candidates standing down in one another's favour, as Labour's John Evans recently advocated. If this was a mere expedient it would have no chance of succeeding, but the Labour party's policy review and a new willingness makes such a position intellectually credible.

There is room for considerable agreement. Thinking in all parties is moving toward the need for a new constitutional settlement, for a balanced defence and disarmament policy, for good stewardship in using national resources, for defending such prized assets as the NHS, and to encouraging enterprise in a free society. Broadly, this is an approach acceptable to 60 per cent of the electorate, but which cannot be delivered by any opposition party on its own.

Together, the three opposition parties have made common cause against the Government on water privatization, the by-passing of local democracy, the poll tax, commercialization of

## Unite, and victory is ours



After the Richmond by-election, David Alton (left) and John Cartwright, members of the former Alliance parties, urge an electoral pact — and a link with like-minded Labour MPs — to deny the Tories a fourth term. Dennis Kavanagh (below) assesses Richmond's implications for all parties



party commands sufficient respect to form a government. Millions responded to the Alliance because it represented a genuine attempt to seek partnership and co-operation across the political divide. Its support of proportional representation underlined that conviction. It is downright hypocritical to advocate proportional representation but not then to accept the inter-party co-operation which is part and parcel of that system.

We are not advocating a return to the old Alliance formula. The position of the Labour Party is now central to the new thinking which is required. It is paradoxical that just at the time when increasing numbers of Labour MPs are recognizing

the need to seek agreement between the opposition parties, and are examining the case for electoral reform, we at the centre have abandoned the patient and deliberate role of catalyst. Instead of continuing the realignment of politics we are merely indulging in internecine warfare and petty wrangling.

This simply will not wash. Political leaders are not infallible, and strategy must be open to review. Futile trench warfare will lead to even more casualties on both sides. It takes real courage to admit a mistake and to seek negotiations rather than a bloody fight to the finish.

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## The message from the dales



the 1983 general election the Conservative average share was then down by 12 per cent. Labour's down by 1 per cent and the Alliance's up by 11 per cent.

The combined SDP-SLD vote would easily have won Richmond, as it almost overtook the Tory vote at Epping, providing a springboard for further gains. We would be suffering another bout of talk of breaking the mould of two-party politics. Instead, as David Alton and John Cartwright point out above, the headlines are of the centre's wasted opportunities. They compete to be a very poor third behind Tory and Labour.

Labour largely held on to its share of the vote in Pontypridd. Only the Nationalists improved, to 25 per cent from 5 per cent in 1987. Labour has no effective challenge in Wales, where it holds two thirds of the seats with 45 per cent of the vote. In spite of Peter Walker's high profile as Welsh Secretary, the Conservatives lost second place. With only 30 per cent of the total

Welsh vote, the Conservatives are as weak in Wales as Labour is in England. The Conservatives hold two thirds of the English seats with 46 per cent of the vote.

The biggest losers to Pontypridd were the centre parties. The Alliance had already fallen from 25 per cent of the vote in 1983 to 19 per cent in 1987. On Thursday the two parties collapsed to a combined 7 per cent, the first time since the Alliance was formed that their share of the vote had fallen in a by-election.

In 1987 the biggest falls in Alliance support were in Scotland and Wales. Govan and now Pontypridd confirm the centre parties' vulnerability to the Nationalists at by-elections. Above all, they are making no impact in Labour's heartland.

Richmond may be yet another turning point. Dr Owen will certainly argue and hope that this is so. The Steel/Ashdown strategy, once Owen refused to

join the newly merged Democrats, was to see off the continuing SDP in 1989. Owen's task was more modest: stranded in the opinion polls and almost non-existent in local government, his party had to gain enough votes in by-elections to spoil the Democrats' chances. He could then call for an election pact. Epping, Richmond and even Pontypridd have strengthened his hand and dealt a severe blow to Ashdown.

The centre parties know from their brief histories that their reputation is only as good as the last by-election. Far from replacing Labour, the Democrats cannot even eliminate the Owenites. A certain modesty in Ashdown's public utterances about strategy would now be appropriate.

Owen is back in the limelight, for a time at least. The SDP is clearly more than a residual rumour at by-elections. The Democrats, however, will not give him the election pact he wants. Yesterday's letter to *The Independent* from Democrat lu-

minaries makes that clear. It was written in anticipation of a good SDP result and to kill off such talk. For Ashdown to negotiate to public would be a humiliation. His entourage is firmly against any repetition of the 1983 and 1987 election arrangements. They regard Owen as a powerful force — but destructive rather than positive.

Yesterday one leading Democrat was comparing Owen to Joseph Chamberlain, who broke with the Liberals and then the Tories, and damaged both. Owen will be invited again to repent and join the Democrats. There will be no negotiated pact, though the Democrats will not stand in the three SDP seats in the next general election.

Owen will encourage talk of pacts and will argue that this shows his reasonableness. He needs such talks to enhance his legitimacy. But the SDP hardly exists in vast tracks of the country and is much weaker in local government than the Democrats. Richmond was a

the NHS and the illiberal new Official Secrets Bill — but little good has it done us. Even when backbench Tories revolt, the Government majority in the Commons is hardly dented.

We are both practical politicians who have won hard-fought victories against the Labour left. We are not endorsing the policies or tactics of those who have done so much to damage Labour and who still threaten moderate Labour MPs like Frank Field. The approach we are outlining would marginalize the hard left and give new heart to many Labour voters.

Labour is slowly but definitely changing — in its attitudes towards the relationship of the individual and the state, towards defence, taxation, trade union domination and Europe. The electorate, however, still suspends judgement. Labour will become electable only when it commits itself to sharing power with us. That is the only real answer to its credibility gap.

Too many in the opposition are prepared to write off the next general election. That is sheer defeatism. There should now be a rational post-mortem of these by-election results and a recognition that the jury is in.

The choice is stark: continued politics of hate and mutual recrimination or the common sense that bids us to get on together.

David Alton is Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill. John Cartwright is SDP MP for Woolwich.

fortunate by-election for the SDP. It had a good local candidate and the seat was one of only a dozen or so in which it is stronger in local government than the Democrats.

In spite of all that has happened since the creation of the SDP in 1981 — the pact, Alliance split and incomplete merger — there is still a considerable centre vote. At present it is wasted because there is no one centre party. We have, however, been here before. The realignment momentum started with Shirley Williams' stunning capture of Crosby in November 1981 (pushing up the previous Liberal vote by 35 per cent). That process is no further on and talk of breaking the mould is heard less often today.

The ground between Labour and Tory is only so large. Two parties seeking to capture it are likely to destroy each other. That is the main lesson of Epping and Richmond. In the same way, the Lloyd George and Asquith factions in the Liberal party fought each other after the First World War and both went down. Labour's prospects have improved recently. Recent polls suggest that it is closing fast on a troubled government. But the lesson of Richmond, as of Epping, is that it is still not profiting from the muddle in the middle. Many non-Conservatives will still not touch Labour with a barge pole.

Nervous Conservatives will remember that it was at this stage in the last parliament that Labour moved into a lead in the opinion polls. Conservative electoral prospects did not turn around until autumn 1986. But as long as Kinnock, Ashdown and Owen divide the non-Conservative 60 per cent of the electorate, Mrs Thatcher is probably safe in Downing Street.

Dennis Kavanagh  
Professor of Politics, Nottingham University.

Commentary • ROBIN RUSSELL-JONES

## Lagging on unleaded

Last week, 10,000 balloons advertising unleaded petrol were released from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. For the media it was an unprecedented photo opportunity; for the oil companies, an unambiguous message that they should make lead-free petrol more widely available; and for Clear, the organization which has championed lead-free petrol, it marked the culmination of seven years of tireless campaigning.

But why, if unleaded petrol is Government policy, does it require the Royal Family to advertise it? It is six years since the Government accepted the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that lead to petrol be phased out. Yet unleaded still accounts for less than 4 per cent of British petrol sales, compared with more than 20 per cent in seven other European countries, and more than 40 per cent in West Germany. This is an extraordinary situation, particularly since much of the medical evidence identifying lead as a cause of intellectual deficit in children has been gathered in this country. Air lead levels are in fact rising as traffic growth exceeds sales of unleaded fuel.

The Government would have us believe it is firmly committed to lead-free petrol: indeed the Chancellor has made it the cheapest on the market. Yet the Government is reluctant to regulate industry, believing that improvements in public health and the environment can be achieved voluntarily. This approach is not only naive, but dangerous, as the salmonella affair has demonstrated.

Even with lead-free petrol the limited success achieved is not due to any government initiative, but to campaigning organizations, such as Clear, the publicity given to the issue by the *Daily Mail*, and the support of the Royal Family. The Government refused to fund a television campaign to advertise unleaded fuel and inform the public which cars can use it.

Exemptions have been allowed so that by 1990, the date laid down in the EEC directive, manufacturers may still produce cars which can run on leaded petrol. The Government refused to insist on filler systems which would ensure that new cars could accept only the smaller nozzles fitted to unleaded petrol pumps; this means that after 1990 drivers will continue to put leaded petrol in cars designed for lead-free motoring.

Finally, it has failed to solve the problem of availability. Unleaded petrol is currently sold at only one in six outlets. The figure is rising, albeit slowly, but availability is a key factor in resistance to using unleaded. Equally, lack of demand is a key factor in resistance to installing unleaded petrol pumps.

There is a simple solution. From October 1989 EEC legislation requires member countries to ensure the "availability and balanced distribution of unleaded petrol", and allows for the banning of regular (2-star) petrol. If the Government announced a ban on 2-star from October 1989, this would provide a national network of pumps for unleaded fuel, as well as removing a superfluous and toxic grade of petrol from the market.

Virtually all cars currently using 2-star petrol could switch to unleaded without modification, and for the few which cannot, premium (4-star) petrol will still be available. Unhappily, successive environment ministers have refused to accept this proposal, despite repeated requests from environmentalists.

The petrol issue epitomizes the failure of a government which relies on the voluntary approach. But the same principles apply to many other issues where public health or the environment are threatened.

Take CFCs, the chemicals which destroy the ozone layer. Last November, the junior environment minister, Virginia Bottomley, in her opening address to an international conference which I organized on stratospheric ozone depletion, called for a CFC-free world.

Furthermore, the Government has announced that Britain will comply with the terms of the Montreal Protocol by 1990, 10 years ahead of schedule. But this was achieved because of a consumer boycott by Friends of the Earth, and a remark by Prince Charles, that he had banned the use of hair-spray in his household. These factors converted the aerosol manufacturers to ozone-friendly products, and will enable the Government to claim compliance with the Montreal Protocol by 1990.

Ministers would argue that the CFC story proves the voluntary approach works. But why does the Government rely on environmental organizations, and on the Royal Family, to bring about improvement? It pretends to be sympathetic, yet refuses to

impose regulations which might inconvenience industry. With CFCs, the Government refused to introduce mandatory labelling of products as to CFC content.

It is not the business of pressure groups to act as surrogates for government legislation, and the voluntary approach has no chance of working with issues which do not command a high public profile, or are insensitive to consumer demands. The use of CFCs in air conditioning, building construction, or electronic circuitry has not been curtailed, and may even increase under the terms of the Montreal Protocol, because aerosol production has fallen so swiftly.

There is no substitute for government legislation to control CFC production, something the Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, has consistently refused, and is unlikely even to discuss at the Government's forthcoming ozone conference on March 5.

The instincts of Tory ministers are to give industry a free hand. Non-interference with market forces is a corner-stone of Thatcherism. But the Prime Minister's espousal of environmental issues sits uneasily with the old ideologies. It is a confused government which is prepared to pay £19 million in compensation to the producers of contaminated eggs yet will not fund a campaign to protect the nation's children by promoting unleaded petrol.

The author is chairman of the pollution advisory committee at Friends of the Earth and was chairman of Clear, 1984-88.

FEB 25 ON THIS DAY 1919

Throughout the First World War and its aftermath, *The Times* published articles (in the form of "letters") from all ranks serving in every front.

### WITH THE MURMANSK FORCE

The following is a letter written by an officer in the ASC with the British Murmansk Force, Kamchatka, which is on the Murman railway, in the north-west corner of the White sea...

I live with a collection of other lost souls in a place colloquially known as the "dum". It is a sort of shell in which Serbs have died of typhus and Russians have lived in squalor, and is now inhabited by mice and bugs. Water freezes 2ft from a red-hot stove. My bed is 18in from the stove, which keeps me just comfortable when it is glowing; I hang my sheepskin coat on the head of the bed, and then button it so that it makes a cone over my head and saves my nose from frost-bite.

This expedition has added another word to the Tommy's vocabulary, "sholko", which means "how much?". It is used to express the art of barter: thus you "sholko" furs for tobacco, etc. The Russians now are opening their mouths so wide that they are themselves putting an end to the trade. A common red fox skin costs at least 4lb of tobacco and three bottles of whiskey. When the first troops came out cigarettes sold at a rouble apiece and 1/2lb of tobacco would acquire a fox skin.

We go about here in any old clothes and no one looks like a soldier. Our meals are dreams, fresh, capercaillie, or black game, reindeer venison (veneer

heart is quite one of the best dishes imaginable. Of course, the vegetable courses are rather meagre, the only fresh vegetables we get being watery potatoes, locally grown, which are not improved by being frozen.

There is no "spit and polish" here, no parades, no reviews, no lights-out, no poodles, no CB and no pubs. We have bedsteads at 10am; at 10.30 I drive off to my office with Archibald (my minder), lunch at HQ (a mixed mess of officers, NCOs, Swedes and Finns), then walk back to the "dum" at 6pm, and to bed about 9. Last night we had in the local orchestra, who are our sworn enemies, and had a typical "evening." They came at 9 and stayed till 2. After they had played some pieces, two young RAMC doctors came in and we started dancing. Mazurkas, Vengueskas, and Gopakas, or imitations thereof, all in a space about 9ft square.

This locality has a particularity for fires, not to be wondered at when the mercury has dropped out of sight. We have had two fires within a week. Of course, when a log and shingle house gets going nothing can stop it. The efforts of the brigade with a hand pump had to be abandoned as the spot in 50-gallon barrels on a sleds are priceless.

I have got two reindeer which constitute our ASC transport and are very kind creatures. They are quite easy to drive, you lead them to the road, turn their heads in the right direction, smack them on the rump and take a flying leap into the sleds.

When you come to cross-rails you jerk the one reindeer if it does not grasp your wishes they stop, and you have to get out, turn them into the right track and start again. They pull by a single trace which passes between their legs: there are no shafts, and of course the sleds swing very erratically behind...





## TOWER POLITICS

In 200 years only eight presidential nominees to the Cabinet have been rejected by the Senate. If Senator John Tower's rejection by the Armed Services Committee is endorsed by the full gathering of his former colleagues next week, President Bush will become only the sixth US President to suffer this rebuff to his authority, and the first to do so for 30 years.

The President's authority is 99 per cent of what the Tower hearings have been about. The Democrat-dominated committee, chaired by the chimerical Georgian, Mr Sam Nunn, has done its best to turn Senator Tower's alleged problems with women, wine, and defence contractors into reasons for denying him the stewardship of the Pentagon. Although substance to the charges is still lacking, Senator Tower, one of the President's closest aides, can now be freely described in Washington as a liability whom Mr Bush would be best advised to abandon.

The President has no sensible alternative but to reject this advice — as he did forcefully from Tokyo yesterday. He has put out his "offered hand" to his Congressional opponents — and they have pushed it back in his face. They have done so at a time when he is out of the country and in the most difficult position from which to fight a lobbying campaign to secure a majority for his nominee.

This is part of a bigger battle which he had hoped to avoid so early. He had hoped to build a coalition for his policies on Capitol Hill in his own time and in the co-operative spirit of his inauguration speech. Instead, as was always the more likely course, he has to persuade Democratic senators to back a key presidential decision in an atmosphere of rising rancour and with his own Congressional lobbyists barely installed in their offices.

The stakes are high for both sides. The exact role of the Senate in confirming presidential appointments has been a disputed issue since 1787. But while, for example, the Senate's rejection of nominations to the Supreme Court has been a regular part of relations between the rival branches of government, a vote against a Cabinet member has been very rare. Of the eight cases, four took place under one President — John Tyler, the President-without-a-party who never won election in his own right.

The two most recent cases were both, like Senator Tower, conservatives whose business interests were considered suspect. Corruption in all areas of government must be kept at bay. But there has grown up a clear double standard in the way that elected officials can even boast of the public money they have brought to their

areas with their votes, while White House appointments have to avoid even the apparent possibility of conflict of interest.

Presidents have come to treat this as an irritating normality. But in the 30 years since the rejection of Eisenhower's Commerce Secretary, Mr Lewis Strauss, Congressional success in turning this advantage into practical politics has been limited. Defeat for Senator Tower could mark a turn of the tide.

The particular case for the Defence Secretary-designate is clear enough. He may not be a sufficiently perfect human being for Senator Nunn's committee. But he understands both the need for strong defence and the means to procure that defence at an affordable price. Those qualities are not easy to replicate.

He is a former senator, a former chairman of the committee which has now rejected him; he well understands which high-employing defence plants are in place only to bring votes for politicians. As they say in Washington, he is one of the few who know where the pork barrel is buried.

He is a conservative who was closely identified with the foreign policy successes of the past eight years. The new President owes him clear political debts. But Mr Bush has to make it plain that he rejects the agenda of his opponents in which those facts are necessary handicaps to nomination.

Moreover, while the Pentagon is without a leader, difficult and dangerous problems are mounting. There are the divisions over the future nature of US strategic weapons. General Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, favours the single-warhead Midgetman which would be deployed in trucks. Opposing forces in the Defence Department favour the deployment of the 10-warhead MX missile in railway wagons.

Congress is chafing over the equivocal response of the West Germans to the replacement of the short-range Lance missile. No one from the Pentagon, it appears, has been delegated to lobby on Capitol Hill for the funding that this programme requires if political momentum in Europe is to be maintained.

For all these reasons it is important that the President and his senior staff turn some of their attention away from the attractions of the East to the sights and sounds at home. But the biggest reason is that Mr Tower has become a key section of the old battered fence which separates White House powers from those of Capitol Hill. If he is swept aside, he will leave a gap through which many greedier than Senator Nunn will gallop.

## A SHOCK FOR THE CENTRE

It has long been clear that in any seat in which the Conservatives could be defeated by centre but not by Labour politics, victory would be thrown away if the Social Democrats and the Democrats stood against each other. This is not a healthy state of affairs for a democracy which requires effective opposition and the availability of an alternative government.

If, however, the Tories were opposed by a single party holding broadly the political position of Dr David Owen, which is itself not all that far in practice from that of Mr Paddy Ashdown, or even, perhaps, that of Mr Bryan Gould, Mrs Thatcher could be in trouble. At Richmond she has suffered a virtual defeat at the hands of the centre parties but has been handed a victory by what is now largely a personal feud.

The centre parties now are under a sentence of permanent impotence by the refusal of Mr Paddy Ashdown to countenance any kind of an electoral understanding with Dr Owen. The question now is what political substance lies behind this obduracy.

Dr Owen's original refusal to merge with the Liberals in the shot-gun marriage engineered by Mr Steel was justified. Mr Steel's way of trying to balance the sixties' social democratic reflexes with the anarchic impulses of the old Liberal left would have undermined Dr Owen's realistic post-Thatcherite attitudes.

But much has since changed. Mr Steel has gone, the influx of Social Democrats into the SLD has altered its balance and the old Liberal left has gone quiet. To the extent that Mr Ashdown has anything clear to say about politics, it has an Owenite tinge.

Indeed, part of his resistance to any kind of

talking with Dr Owen may arise from a fear that the SDP leader would outshine him in any new association. That, however, is no longer an affordable luxury.

Mr Ashdown himself recently, vaguely and unconvincingly suggested a "common agenda" around which Mrs Thatcher's foes could unite. He also declared against "cynical pacts" with Labour, arguing that this would lead to the defection of Democrat voters "in droves" — which is true.

But he also virtually dismissed an understanding with the SDP on the grounds that it would be finished as a political force by the end of the year. This is plainly wrong. The two centre parties now have to think again.

As for the major parties, Richmond leaves them where they were. Mr Kinnoch must fight his battle against his left, with the outcome still unknown. Mrs Thatcher must contend with lost popularity coming not only from mid-term reversion but from public suspicion of water privatization and NHS re-structuring.

The Government's greatest risk, however, is in the re-emergence of inflation. Its reduction was Mrs Thatcher's most precious achievement. But the side-effects of subduing it again could be painful. The Government faces a period of highly sensitive public relations and must justify its policies convincingly.

Mrs Thatcher could, of course, say of Pontypriid that she does not grudge Mr Kinnoch his victory in a rock-hard Labour seat and of Richmond that if this kind of pattern is reproduced right up to the last election she has nothing to worry about. But victories that depend on opponents' weakness are never safe.

## AGENDA FOR MR ANNESLEY

The office of Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, to be occupied by Mr Hugh Annesley of the Metropolitan Police in May, has been accurately described as the hardest police job in Europe. Its less attractive aspects include responsibility for order and safety in a deeply divided community, incessant political criticism from several directions at once, a well-rooted, trained and equipped terrorist group at large and unusual physical risk.

The business of policing in Northern Ireland has changed during two decades. The force has become larger, more professional and more successful. Army security operations are subsidiary to the police. Public disturbance has been reduced to token outbreaks. Counter-terrorism work is concentrated on fewer, tougher targets. The chief task of the province's senior policeman is to give practical expression to the assertion that terrorism cannot win.

In pursuit of that aim, there are two tasks to which the new Chief Constable could profitably give special priority. The first is the pressing need for greater clarity in the legal and operational rules governing the use of lethal force by policemen (and soldiers).

The continuing saga of the fatal shootings in 1982 and the subsequent Stalker-Sampson investigation has left an unpleasant taste. To have a Cabinet minister admit in the House of Commons that there was evidence to suggest conspiracy to pervert the course of justice but that there would be no prosecution does little for public faith in the rule of law.

So long as there are terrorists who carry arms, those protecting the rest of society may

have to do the same. There will be times when they have to decide whether to use lethal force. A Chief Constable who embarked on a policy of demonstrating that this grey area could be better illuminated would do his force a service.

The second area of importance is the relationship between the police forces on either side of the border. One of the most significant, but least visible, cross-border links strengthened by the Anglo-Irish Agreement was the exchange of information, expertise and technology between the RUC and the Garda Síochána. The last few months have seen a noticeable improvement in the quality and quantity of intelligence used by the Garda.

To some extent, however, this intelligence has only reinforced a grim conclusion about the quantities of arms received by the IRA. It may not have been able to exploit all its opportunities to use this material, but its very acquisition underlines the importance of police contacts across borders. The quality of these contacts depend greatly on the personal diplomacy between the Chief Constable in the North and the Commissioner in the South.

The maintenance of this relationship requires both men to apply all their skill to keeping their work out of the political arena. Sentiment in the Republic at present objects to the authorities being seen to be too eagerly helpful to Britain. It looks likely to remain that way at least for the duration of Mr Haughey's Government. The less the two senior policemen become entangled in the political disagreement that will arise from this breakdown of the Hillsborough spirit, the more effective their policing is likely to be.

## Putting paid to germs in water

From Mr J. V. White

Sir, The latest outbreak of legionella in London prompts me to report that advances in the technology of water filtration have produced products which can help to reduce significantly the risk of the bacillus *Legionella pneumophila* in water systems.

Every day an average cooling tower collects up to five kilograms of solid matter consisting of atmospheric dust, pollen, insects, etc., which provide nutrients and breeding sites for the bacillus. The use of effective filtration to remove this debris increases the effectiveness of the chemical biocides, thereby avoiding the need for excessive dosages. Maintaining these higher standards of system cleanliness also helps prevent heat-exchanger fouling, thereby saving energy as an additional benefit.

Hitherto these filters have required constant attention to remove the collected solids. The recent developments have resulted in a filter which regularly back-flushes itself, automatically discharging the waste material. Yours faithfully, J. V. WHITE, (Technical Director), Hensley Park, Guildford, Surrey, February 20.

## Water quality

From the Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers

Sir, I read with complete agreement the letter (February 21) from the Chief Executive and Secretary of the Institute of Plumbing. Our company, in common with most other companies and contrary to popular belief, is still deeply involved in the craft from which we sprang, by means of technical seminars, close involvement with City and Guilds qualifications, gold medals to outstanding apprentices etc.

Just over 100 years ago we set up the Register of Qualified Plumbers. The task, having not beyond some years ago, was taken over by the Institute of Plumbing. During the past century we have continued to press and lobby for compulsory registration of plumbers to ensure that they are qualified to practise their craft, and successive governments of all persuasions have failed to react.

Though gas is supplied to many homes and factories it is by no means universal and yet the installers of gas-fed equipment are required by law to be qualified.

Water, on the other hand, finds its way into every single home, factory, hotel, community and conference centre in the land, including air-conditioning systems. And yet water-fed equipment can legally be installed by people with no more qualifications than a bag of tools. It really does seem incredible.

Let us hope that the current interest in the purity of water will at last persuade the Government to introduce the simple legislation needed to exclude unqualified people from tampering with it. Yours faithfully, JOHN LEA, Master, Worshipful Company of Plumbers, Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, EC2, February 21.

## Maritime museum

From the Director of the National Maritime Museum

Sir, Attractive though the conspiracy theory always is, I am afraid I must correct David Walker's diary piece on the National Maritime Museum (February 21). Firstly, there are no plans for privatising the National Maritime Museum. Secondly, though we do, in line with other museums, charge for reproduction of ships' plans, historic photographs and other archival material (and have always done so), we do not charge for using our reference library, nor for personal or telephone enquiries.

Finally, though we have embarked on a five-year programme of major exhibitions, this does not mean that the permanent galleries are being ignored. In fact next month we open our latest new gallery, on the Ship of War, 1650-1815, which contains the NMM's unique collection of 18th-century dockyard ship models. Yours faithfully, RICHARD ORMOND, Director, National Maritime Museum, Park Row, Greenwich, SE10, February 21.

## V & A reforms

From Dr Wolfgang Fischer

Sir, Professor Christopher Frayling (February 20) asks why I do not consider making a direct donation to the Victoria and Albert Museum instead of sponsoring a campaign against its projected re-organization. I would have thought it was obvious to anybody that one would not give money to an institution in whose management one has no confidence.

He also says that he finds it unsettling that this campaign is being organized by a commercial art gallery. Being an art dealer does not prevent me from being an art historian who is deeply concerned with the welfare of one of the Western world's greatest art institutions. I am proud to lend all the facilities that my gallery can offer to this important campaign. Yours etc., WOLFGANG FISCHER, Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, SW1.

## Rights and wrongs in the NHS

From Mr Myrddin Rees

Sir, A great deal is written in these columns on what is right and wrong in the National Health Service. I would like to illustrate both points.

I have just finished my all-day operating list, during which I removed major cancers in four patients and a dissected gall-bladder in a young man. The anaesthetist started an hour early, the theatre girls agreed to work through their lunch break and though we finished an hour past our allocated time, nobody complained and we all felt pleased with a good day's work.

Next week, my allocated operating time has been cancelled because my anaesthetist is on a well-deserved annual leave. Despite a few surgical truntings, reminiscent of Mr James Robertson's decision stands. Apparently, the regional health authority has decreed that there will be no locum anaesthetists employed in cover absences or annual leave.

There is no doubt that this latest money saving manoeuvre will help balance the deficit of underfunding the acute unit in our district. Meanwhile, patients on my waiting list wait longer. May I, through you Sir, offer them an apology and an explanation. Yours faithfully, MYRDDIN REES, (Consultant Surgeon), Basingstoke District Hospital, Aldershot Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, February 16.

From the Editor of Medicoeconomics

Sir, The Prime Minister's account of the first major survey of family doctors' reactions to the NHS White Paper, *Working for Patients*, in the House of Commons (Parliamentary Report, February 24) gave an inaccurate picture of UK GPs' response to the Government's proposed changes.

Mrs Thatcher appeared to overlook the replies sent in by some 2,000 GPs to a survey carried out by Medicoeconomics following publication of the White Paper, details of which had been presented to Mr Kenneth Clarke, with a copy later to the Department of Health library, at his request.

The total number of replies we received was 2,862 (80 per cent of which said the changes would not improve patient services) not 893 as the Prime Minister implied. Yours faithfully, ANN WARBURTON, Editor, Medicoeconomics, Haymarket Medical Publications Ltd, 30 Lancaster Gate, W2, February 24.

## Belief in the Bar

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)

Sir, The cause of the Bar in response to the Government's proposed reforms of the legal profession is being done immense harm by the explosive public overstatements of the senior judiciary. Added to those of Lord Donaldson (report, February 11) and Lord Lane (February 16), we now have Lord Ackner's reported opinion (February 22) that the Government is, no less, "hell bent on the destruction of the Bar".

The law lords have immense privileges in putting their considered reactions strongly at the highest level and being listened to with respect. Their misjudgements in frittering away such influence by blunderbuss diplomacy do grave damage to the cause of measured and responsible reform on many people's baristers included — would like to see. Yours faithfully, DAVID MARTIN, House of Commons, February 24.

## Anastasia anecdote

From Mr Charles Utley

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's proposals in "reform" the legal professions, and the manner in which he is setting about the task,

are alien to all Tory tradition. I accept that the Conservative Party is a coalition, and that Tories are only a part of that coalition. I accept also that this is not the first time that a Conservative has stolen a radical's clothes.

What is, however, deeply distressing to a Tory is the almost unanimous assumption in the Conservative Parliamentary Party that there is no longer, in "Thatcherite" Britain, any need or duty to respect ancient institutions and traditions. His suspicions will also be aroused by a minister who not only proposes the change, but is determined, whatever the opposition, to get his "reforming" Act through Parliament as soon as possible.

Yet there is hardly any sign of disquiet on the Conservative benches in the Commons. Mrs Thatcher herself has given every indication of being the closest thing we have had in a Tory Prime Minister since the war. A Tory reaction on the back-benches to the Lord Chancellor's plans could not possibly be thought of as being disloyal.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES UTLEY, 5 Essex Court, Temple, EC4, February 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

## Grim days for literature

From Professor George Steiner

Sir, These are grim days for literature. The Rushdie affair is taking on aspects of murderous lunacy. Vaclav Havel is, once again, incarcerated in Prague (report, February 22). Thomas Bernhard, the master of German prose after Kafka and Camus, has died at a relatively early age and in bitter isolation (obituary, February 17).

Time will judge the stature or defects of Rushdie's fiction. Havel's plays and prison letters will live when the names of their censors and of the police thugs who seek to suppress them are forgotten. Bernhard's dark parables will be read and studied when his detractors, Mr Waldbheim so brazenly among them, have been "pulpified" by moral history.

But time is a slow healer and poor paymaster. In the meanwhile, these writers (and so many others) suffer danger, deprivation, and loneliness.

Serious literature explores human possibility and "bodies forth" those alternative worlds without which our sense of the present and our metaphors for the future would be barren.

We tend to take for granted the risks and solitude entailed by the writer's profession. We tend to forget that the great majority of novelists, poets, and playwrights labour under conditions of political, economic, or psychological stress of the most coercive sort.

We give little heed to the stress on those who serve literature in their modest ways — the teachers, the editors of "minority" texts, the independent booksellers and the men and women who translate.

The life of the imagination cannot (perhaps it should not) be too readily safeguarded or recompensed. But there are times when its central importance ought to be clearly recognized.

Sincerely, GEORGE STEINER, University of Geneva, Department of English Language and Literature, 22 Boulevard des Philosophes, Geneva, Switzerland, February 21.

## Europe's future

From Mr Austin Arnold

Sir, The debate in your correspondence columns concerning the future shape of Europe (February 8, 13) is being conducted mainly in terms of economics and politics. The cultural dimension receives little mention. However, the degree to which ordinary people can identify with Europe, in addition to their own country, is likely to affect the willingness to co-operate in economic and political matters.

Surely it is time for the European Community to take some bold and imaginative steps to enhance the sense of a European identity. What about, for example, the creation of a European Open University, along the lines of Britain's Distance-learning has shown gratifying results in the latter case, and a distance-learning scheme for the Commonwealth is under study.

A European Open University would increase understanding of the different cultural traditions that make up the European heritage. Yours truly, AUSTIN ARNOLD, Route de Jura, 1261 La Rippe, Vaud, Switzerland, February 15.

## Business and media

From Mr Simon Clark

Sir, Your Media Editor, Richard Evans, reports (February 20) that the Campaign for Quality Television wants a register to be compiled of the business interests of television news and current affairs staff, similar to the register of MPs' business interests.

Where MPs are concerned, however, at least we know their political interests and biases. If television news and current affairs staff were obliged to declare their political affiliations and commitments on the proposed new register, then information of value to the viewing public really would be revealed.

Yours faithfully, SIMON CLARK (Director, Media Monitoring Unit), 201 Holland Park Avenue, W11, February 22.

las's son, and half-Russian, and therefore to be watched. Peter would come and chat to us. He always seemed to have a very large knife in his hand.

But Father Nicholas, in his flowing beard and his solid black robes, sat happily typing away. On the wall behind him hung six magnificent icons. They were, he told me, the last presents that the Russian Royal Family gave him before he left them at Ekaterinburg — a long way from his native Yorkshire.

On each of the icons, long silvers of black oil had run down to deface the remarkable artistry. "That", said Father Nicholas, on more than one occasion, "is the spirits of the Czar and his family making their presence known through the icons".

I thought it had a lot to do with the cabbage water, bubbling away and filling the room with steam. But I never said so.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY HORNSBY, 55 de Beauvoir Road, N1, February 16.

ren't you  
king a fuss  
at nothing?









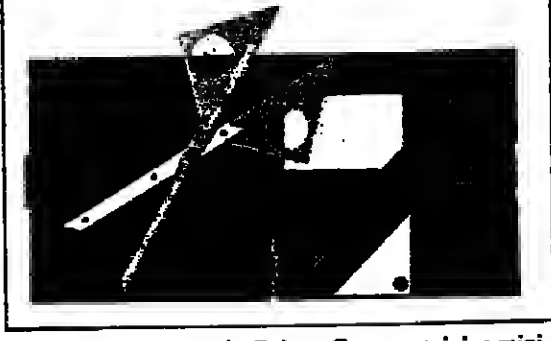




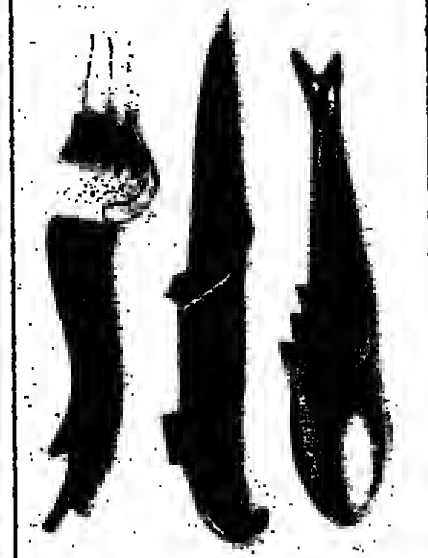




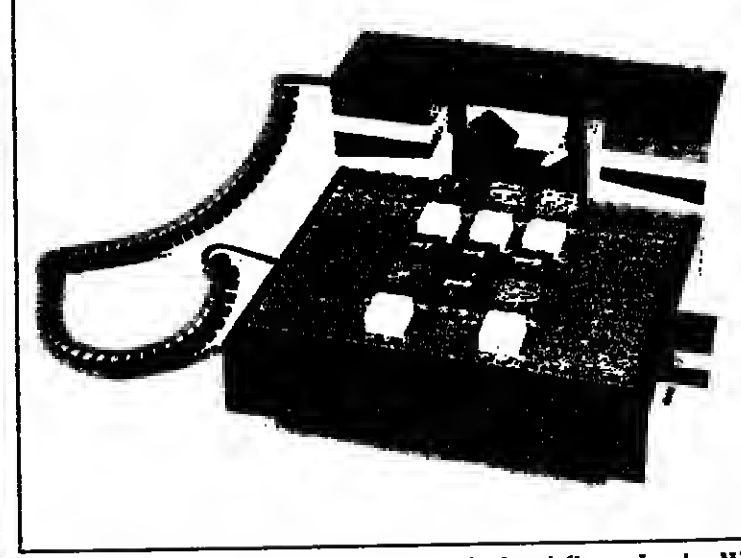
# Living colour



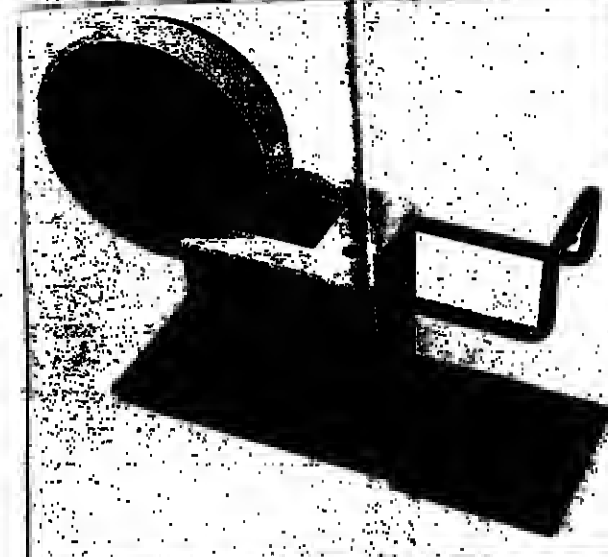
**Naef blocks, £29.50 from Authentics, 42 Shelton St, London WC2 (01-240 9845)**



**Puzzle-calculator to brighten dull faces, £39.95 from Liberty**



**Lego-like telephone, £69 from F.F.W.D. 14a Newburgh Street, London W1**



**Tape dispenser for deskbound boredom, £49.95 from Liberty**

# Hi-tech allure, low-use reality

**Y**ou could cast and prop an entire evening of Mike Leigh's theatre of improvised *Abigail's Party* embarrassment from the pages of the *Innovations* Report.

This flimsy but portentously named publication, which tumbles every month out of the same envelope as the latest demand for money with menaces from your credit card company, provides a remarkable insight into the frenzied dreams of sybaritic suburban luxury of the late 1980s.

Sitting on the sofa bed-cho-  
sen from its pages that you won't  
want to hide  
away", next to the  
Victorian's fire-  
place "installed in  
minutes, an exact  
replica moulded in  
tough resin com-  
plete with 2kw fan  
heater". Derrick is  
looking particularly  
spruce this evening thanks to a liberal  
application of Mane, "origi-  
nally developed in Harley  
Street, simply spray on and  
thicken every strand of hair  
electrostatically".

It's the perfect setting, in fact, to crack open a bottle of Liebfraumilch, put Denis Roussos on the CD player, and relax. This is the nirvana of the M25; the Next suit, and the Club-Class one of the early-morning Renaults flight.

Obviously there is something about credit cards that brings out the worst in people. Owning one of them puts us off our guard, or so the manufacturers of automatic trouser presses and computerized bread ovens assume, and renders us peculiarly vulnerable to the blandishments of the Innovations. Report, and to those who want to sell us leather-look briefcases guaranteed to impress, and the Boston Bulldog alarm, the loudspeaker "virtually instant dog protection" virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, and makes us want to astonish our friends with the "on flame" cigarette lighter.

**Cutlery, £59.95 a set from the Troika Shop**

This zeal for the art of making  
loger is na passing fod. In 1516 they  
passed a law about it.



## THE STATE OF THE ART

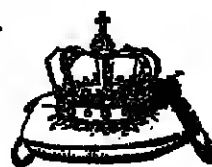
Indeed, they decided to

Taste it, and we think you'll agree that before you can really know true lager you need to know Rayol Hofbräu.

Duke Wilhelm's Purity Low,  
decreed that only if a lager were made  
from borley, haps, yeast ond water and  
nothing else, could it be called true lager.

The Duke's concern for the topic became a profitable concern when his grandson, also a Wilhelm, established the royal court brewery - das K nigliches Hofbr uhaus.

He commissioned Munich's most accomplished brewer to create the right royal lager.



The result was so astonishing that the recipe became the jewel in the

**THE ART OF THE STATE.**

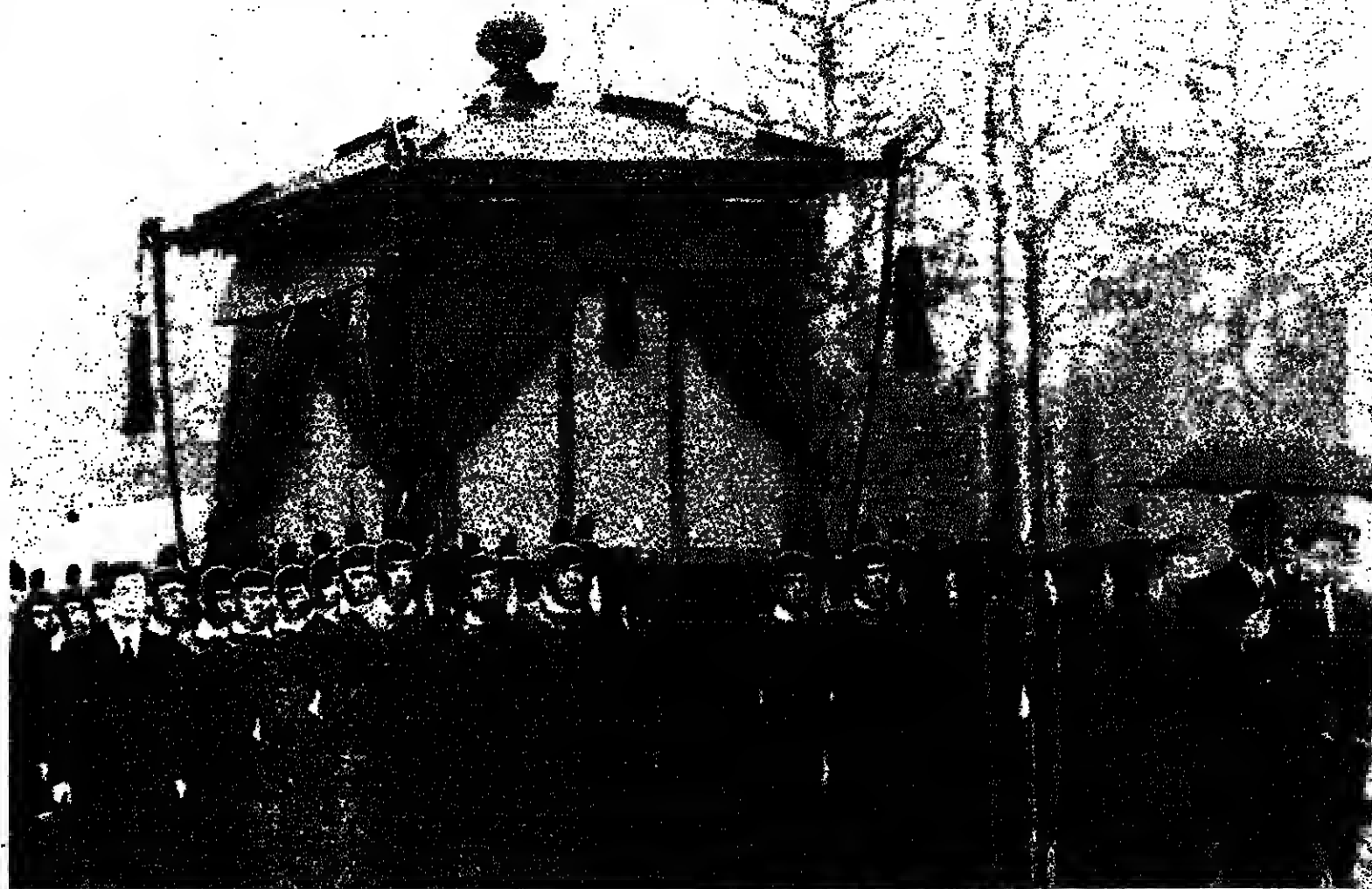




# Controversy dogs Emperor Hirohito to the end



Empress Michiko walking alone in the rain to pay her respects.



Imperial guards, dressed in traditional robes, bearing the Emperor's coffin to the funeral hall for the universal Shinto ceremony.

## Japan pays a subdued final tribute

Continued from page 1  
of 87, has continued to arouse argument and divide loyalties across the world.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who was criticized by British veterans of the Second World War for his decision to attend yesterday's rites, appeared caught between past passions and modern sensibilities. He gave what appeared to be only a half-hearted nod towards the late monarch's coffin rather than the fuller bow of his fellow guests.

Today he will lay a wreath at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama and visit the graves there of British soldiers and prisoners of war.

The war, and the row about Hirohito's part in it, still fires passion in Japan, too. Yesterday at least a dozen demonstrations protested against the emperor system. Mr. Mone Hiroki, a 72-year-old farmer in Kyushu, was taken to hospital after trying ritually to disembowel himself.

The funeral drew dignitaries from 163 countries, including 55 heads of state, 14 members of royal families, 20 vice-presidents and 11 prime min-

isters. But many of them, seizing a rare chance, had their minds more on politics than funeral pomp.

White House problems moved to Tokyo as the Senate armed services committee's refusal to recommend Senator John Tower as the new Secretary of Defence forced President Bush to defend his controversial choice of appointee.

"I stand strongly with John Tower," a barressed Mr Bush said in Tokyo last night. "He is my choice, my only choice and I'm standing with him."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, also brought Britain's worries to Tokyo, but failed to persuade his hosts to join the European partners in recalling their Ambassador to Tehran in protest at Iran's death threats to the author Salman Rushdie. Japan, which relies on Iran for oil, criticized the threats but would go no further.

As the afternoon wore on and the funeral cortege wove its way to the Imperial Mausoleum in Hachioji, western Tokyo, the controversy that hung over Hirohito's life, also dogged his final farewell. Constitutional ex-

ponents, opposition MPs and Christians protested that the Government's decision, to include within yesterday's funeral a Shinto ceremony, violated the separation of state and religion written into Japan's democratic post-war constitution.

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, under attack for his decision to include the Shinto rite, for recently suggesting that Japan may not have been an aggressor in the last war and, more seriously, in terms of his political future for his Government's entanglement in an influential peddling scandal, again took the opportunity to nudge those who brand Hirohito a warmonger by saying that throughout his long and turbulent reign, the Emperor had "ardently wished for world peace and the well-being of the Japanese people". Those who disagreed managed to detonate a small explosive device on the funeral route about 20 minutes before the motorcade but it caused no harm. The police who put Tokyo on something close to a war footing in their efforts to protect the funeral guests and the Imperial cortege, blamed radicals.

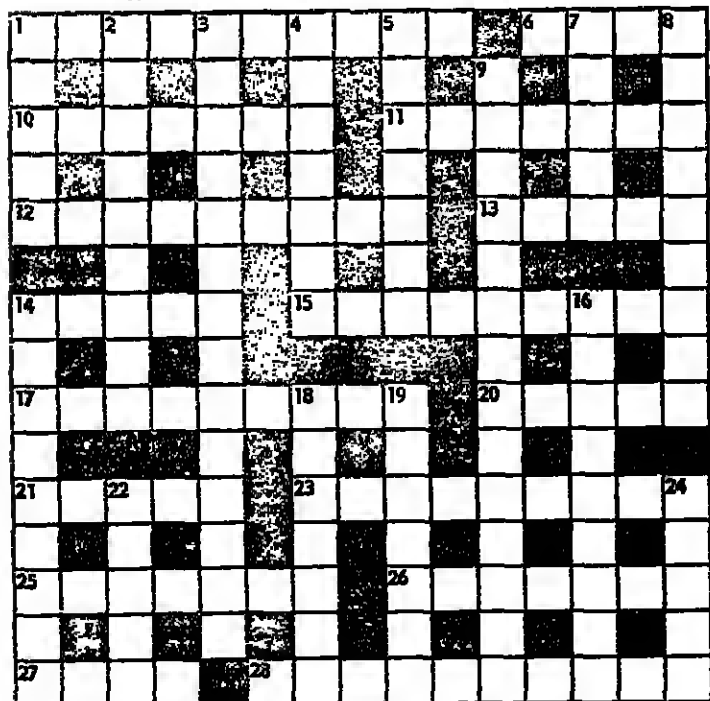
The funeral organizers had even taken into account the possibility of a sudden chill and provided guests with black blankets — cashmere for the foreign dignitaries, wool for the rest. It was still not enough for President Kaunda of Zambia, who packed himself tightly inside a thick overcoat and a long woolly scarf.

Accompanied by traditional court music and a 21-gun salute, the 60 strong motorcade left the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo on schedule at 9.35am local time, driving into a corridor of umbrellas, pocket cameras and journalists. Some of the 571,000 people who lined the four mile route to the funeral site in the Leafy Shijuku Gyoen Imperial Gardens bowed as the cortege passed. A few cried.

Many had left the city for ski resorts and distant friends rather than cope with the ghost town that Tokyo had become. Shops, restaurants and entertainment centres were closed and car drivers were diverted elsewhere.

Forty minutes after the cortege had left the palace, it reached the funeral site, only minutes after President Bush had been found a front-row seat.

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,915



- ACROSS**
- One endemic disorder amusing performer? Not him! (10).
  - A lawyer — e's not there to be a prophet (4).
  - Wine spoiling my meals, though it did for Clarence (7).
  - Demand too much from public before a vote (7).
  - Must get right away from German city trial (9).
  - 'ound that is loose (5).
  - River horse, so to speak (5).
  - Grotesque emphasis wrongly attached to name (9).
  - Brings out books from the bar, having left one novels (9).
  - Throw overboard in the Channel (5).
  - Units evacuated from Indonesia land in Asia (5).
  - So began broadcast, without hesitation, from loudspeaker (9).
  - Island breed used to fog offenders there? (4,3).
  - Medical treatment — might have one up in arms (7).
  - Artless female? (4).
  - Spouse improved a fraction (5,4).
- DOWN**
- Systematically search English valley (5).
  - Fights Robert, holding many a dangerous weapon (5,4).
  - Result of lack of will in female I spotted far off? (14).
  - City I found, in total, a delightful place (7).
  - Simpletons often in the soup (7).
  - Satisfied about part of Bible and music for service (5).
  - A fraction beyond the 1st XV? (9).
  - Old king unlikely to get drunk quickly (14).
  - He fixes things for two sorts of traveller (9).
  - Old man wandering again to part of South America (9).
  - In Asian port, rather frequent visitor (7).
  - Colourful ballad singer's home town (7).
  - Sounds like Alice's pet customer in restaurant (5).
  - Board intended to support position of discarded worker (5).

#### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.41	2.07
Austria S	23.45	22.16
Belgium F	70.30	66.40
Canada \$	2.195	2.075
Denmark Kr	12.97	12.32
France F	7.48	7.42
Germany DM	3.33	3.15
Greenland K	230	267
Hong Kong \$	14.15	13.40
Italy Lira	1,332	1,182
Japan Yen	240	230
Netherlands Gld	12.22	11.57
Norway Kr	3.765	3.555
Portugal Esc	200	187
South Africa R	4.88	4.38
Spain Ptas	200	187
Sweden Kr	11.50	10.28
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.38
Taiwan Nts	260	240
USA \$	1.842	1.742
Yugoslavia Dn	114.00	94.00

For all bank conversion bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 111.0 (January)

London: The FT index closed up 2.7 at 1053.4.

#### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Watch of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PAVID**
- Scared
  - Mosaic crazy paving
  - Not empty
- NEBELE**
- Self-governing towns
  - Egyptian gaming dice
  - The ram's horn trumpet
- QUAT**
- How many?
  - A pimple
  - To puffed with a pestle
- HONCHO**
- An Eskimo carrying bag
  - A boss
  - Japanese modesty

Answers on page 14

**SHEAFFER** A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 400, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEATHER** Much of England starting dry with mist or fog in places. Rain, sleet or snow over south-west England will spread across Wales, the Midlands, southern England and East Anglia. Western and northern Scotland will start with wintry showers. Rain, sleet or snow over eastern areas will extend north-west with clearance from the south later. Outlook: cloud, rain, sleet or snow in the extreme north and East Anglia. Otherwise wintry showers with north-westerly winds.

ABROAD			AROUND BRITAIN		
Midday	1-4	5-8	Midday	1-4	5-8
Algeria	11.52	11.52	Scarboro	7.1	7.1
Alexandria	17.63	17.63	Sheffield	8.0	8.0
Athens	21.1	21.1	Southend	0.9	0.9
Bombay	21.59	21.59	Southampton	7.9	7.9
Buenos Aires	7.45	7.45	Stratford	5.5	5.5
Cairo	12.97	12.97	Swansea	6.4	6.4
Calcutta	19.56	19.56	Torquay	7.8	7.8
Cardiff	20.82	20.82	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Chennai	19.56	19.56	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Copenhagen	20.82	20.82	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Dublin	20.82	20.82	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Hong Kong	14.15	14.15	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
London	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Lyons	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Madrid	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Moscow	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
New York	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Paris	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Rome	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
San Francisco	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Seoul	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Singapore	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Tokyo	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Winnipeg	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8
Zurich	12.97	12.97	Wrexham	7.8	7.8

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fog; r, rain; s, sun; w, wind; d, drizzle; h, hail; m, mist; n, snow; t, thunder; l, lightning.

These are Thursday's figures

**LIGHTING-UP TIME**

TODAY

London 6.04 pm to 6.22 am

Bristol 6.14 pm to 6.32 am

Edinburgh 6.08 pm to 6.26 am

Manchester 6.08 pm to 6.26 am

Penzance 6.27 pm to 6.45 am

**TONIGHT**

London 6.08 pm to 6.26 am

Bristol 6.15 pm to 6.33 am

Edinburgh 6.11 pm to 6.29 am

Manchester 6.11 pm to 6.29 am

Penzance 6.29 pm to 6.47 am

**HIGH TIDES**

TODAY

London Bridge 4.20 am

Aberdeen 3.48 am

Belfast 3.20 am

Cardiff 3.20 am

Edinburgh 3.20 am

Glasgow 3.20 am

**NOON TODAY**

TODAY

London Bridge 4.20 am

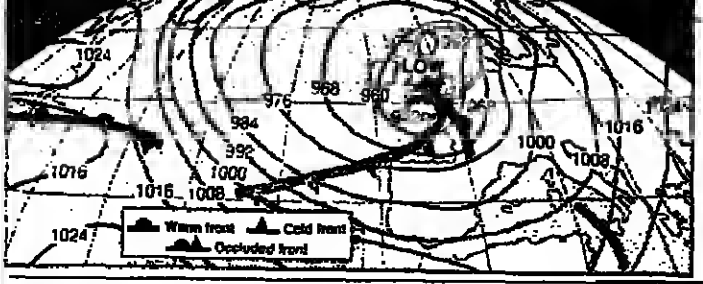
Aberdeen 3.48 am

Belfast 3.20 am

Cardiff 3.20 am

Edinburgh 3.20 am

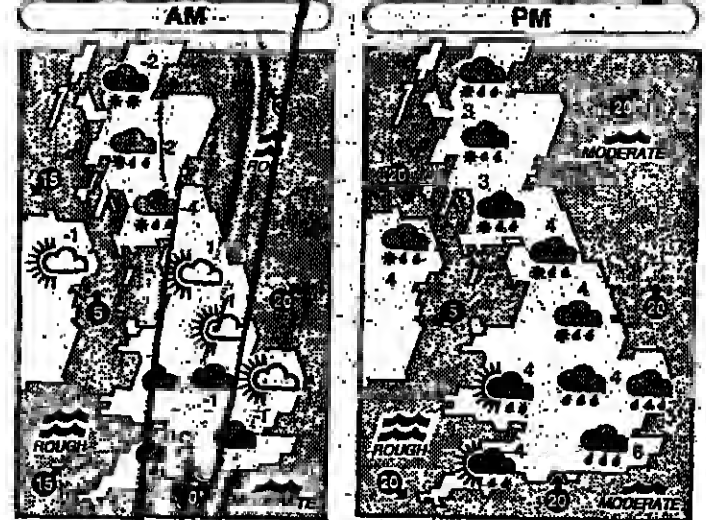
Glasgow 3.20 am



TODAY	Sun rises	Sun sets	TOMORROW	Sun rises	Sun sets
	6.55 am	5.34 pm		6.52 am	5.36 pm
MOON SETS	7.55 am	11.17 pm	MOON SETS	7.55 am	11.17 pm
Last Quarter February 28			Last Quarter February 28		

Information supplied by Met Office

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**'Talk to your pharmacist if there's anything you'd like to get off your chest.'**

**ACTIFED EXPECTORANT**

If you've a chesty cough, now you can breathe again. Actifed Expectorant can soothe throat irritations, and help clear congestion and mucus. So you'll feel better, and so sleep better. You can get Actifed Expectorant by visiting your local pharmacist.

**ACTIFED FROM WELLCOME THE RECOGNISED SOLUTION**



● COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 19  
● CREDIT CARDS: AGE OF ASSENT 23  
● BUDGET: DRIVING OFF THE ROAD 27  
● POLL TAX: NO ESCAPE 28

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7520 (-0.0100)  
W German mark  
3.1948 (-0.0112)  
Exchange index  
95.5 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1683.4 (+2.7)  
FT-SE 100  
2018.5 (+2.9)

Regalian in £130m office deal

Regalian Properties has agreed to buy a 130,000 sq ft office development on the former Green Lane site south of the Thames in Central London for about £130 million.

Mr David Goldstone, the managing director of Regalian, said yesterday he could not reveal the buyer of the future office development at Vauxhall Cross due to a confidentiality agreement.

Final consent for the office development on the site was granted on Thursday and construction work is expected to begin within 12 months.

Regalian said yesterday that construction work is expected to start within a year and will take a further three years. Profits from the development, estimated at between £30 million and £40 million will be taken over the next four years.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2281.07 (-28.30)
Tokyo	Nikkei	15,450.00 (-100.00)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	3,114.23 (-11.03)
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	302.8 (-11.03)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1,686.2 (+7.7)
Paris	Paris	1,614.5 (+12.0)
Brussels	Brussels	567.23 (-19.18)
Zurich	Zurich	430.9 (-0.8)
London	FT 30 Share	1683.4 (+2.7)
London	FT-SE 100	2018.5 (+2.9)
London	Gold Mines	168.2 (+0.7)
London	FT 1000	85.08 (-0.06)
London	FT 1000	85.08 (-0.06)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FIAT	125.50 (+1.40)
BMW	347.00 (+0.10)
Mercedes	175.00 (+0.20)
Volvo	175.00 (+0.20)
Peugeot	175.00 (+0.20)
Renault	175.00 (+0.20)
Ford	175.00 (+0.20)
Seat	175.00 (+0.20)
Skoda	175.00 (+0.20)
Alfa Romeo	175.00 (+0.20)
Lotus	175.00 (+0.20)
Rolls Royce	175.00 (+0.20)
Bentley	175.00 (+0.20)
Maybach	175.00 (+0.20)
Rolls Royce	175.00 (+0.20)
Bentley	175.00 (+0.20)
Maybach	175.00 (+0.20)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	13%
3-month Treasury Bill	12.125%
6-month Treasury Bill	12.125%
12-month Treasury Bill	12.125%
3-month Eurodollar	12.125%
6-month Eurodollar	12.125%
12-month Eurodollar	12.125%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	1.7520
£/DM	3.1948
£/Sfr	1.5587
£/¥	168.20
£/A\$	1.5587
£/NZ\$	1.5587
£/R\$	1.5587
£/C\$	1.5587
£/M\$	1.5587
£/P\$	1.5587

GOLD

London	New York
£/oz	388.20
\$/oz	388.20
€/oz	388.20
¥/oz	388.20
A\$/oz	388.20
NZ\$/oz	388.20
R\$/oz	388.20
C\$/oz	388.20
M\$/oz	388.20
P\$/oz	388.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr)	\$16.1000 (\$16.20)
Brent (Jul)	\$16.1000 (\$16.20)
Brent (Oct)	\$16.1000 (\$16.20)

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch included: Lloyds Bank (01955) fell 10p and PWS Holdings (02353) dropped 24p after results; ICI (01348) added 19p on figures; a firm dollar put 18p on Glaxo (01414).

● Additions include: Graham Wood (03560); NFC (03561); RWE (07250); DSM (07253).

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

\*\*\*\*\*

A 'compassionate man' faces 'reactionary' ConsGold



Edwardes and his Minorco dream

By Colin Campbell

Sir Michael Edwardes lays claim to at least one record: "I have terminated more managers' jobs - 19,000 it was - than anybody else in British industrial history."

Sir Michael, born October 11 1930 in the Cape province of South Africa, and educated at Rhodes University, Grahamstown (BA Law), arrived in Britain 23 years ago. He achieved notoriety when, as head of a "rescue" team he sacked the entire board at Dunlop. He was again in the news as chairman of British Leyland. He is now hoping to sack the "small reactionary group" at the top of Consolidated Gold Fields.

But, "while I am ruthless in decisions, I hope I am compassionate in implementation," he says.

Sir Michael, "manager of change," is spearheading Britain's biggest ever takeover battle - the £3.2 billion bid for Consolidated Gold Fields. The British mining finance house founded by Cecil John Rhodes and a company closely associated with South Africa.

"Yes, I have heard them say 'Minorco, who?' Sir Michael admits. "Cecil

Reaching out to gather in Consolidated Gold Fields: Sir Michael Edwardes, the Minorco chairman who believes that "to overpay is death," makes a point at his office in London

Rate fears grow on US discount move

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Fears of a pre-Budget rise in Britain's base rates to 14 per cent have heightened after an increase in the US discount rates to 7 per cent yesterday, and expectations that the West German Bundesbank will lift its official interest rates next Thursday.

The Bank of England intervened to support sterling, but dealers and analysts believe the pound's vulnerability has increased considerably. The chances of an unwelcome rise in base rates from the present 13 per cent level.

"Sterling is definitely vulnerable," said Mr David Morrison, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, the investment house.

"I believe that sterling will drop to DM18. If it falls below that, the great likelihood is that base rates will have to go up."

The balance of risks of 14 per cent base rates is greater than at any time so far," said Mr Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, the broker.

"Sterling looks very vulnerable and a rise in West German interest rates next week would make it very difficult to avoid a rise in base rates."

Mr Ian Harnett, an economist at ANZ McCaughan Securities, the broker, said there was a 60 to 70 per cent chance of a rise in base rates to 14 per cent in the coming weeks. He predicted further Bank of England intervention but said that a rise in base rates was not inevitable.

Byrington anger - 19 rates was on the cards, particularly if sterling also weakened against the dollar.

Analysts believe that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has to respond to any indication of sterling weakness because of the consequences of a sustained fall in the pound for Britain's poor inflation position.

Pessimism over the course of Britain's base rates followed the increase in the US discount rate from 6.5 to 7 per cent yesterday. The timing of the rate rise came as a surprise to the markets, after equivalent statements on US monetary policy from Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, earlier in the week.

The discount rate rise came after the Fed signalled a tightening of monetary policy by pushing the Federal Funds rate to 9 1/4 per cent on Thursday. Several US banks, including Chemical Bank, Citicorp, Manufacturers Hanover and JP Morgan, lifted their prime rates from 11 to 11.5 per cent yesterday, matching moves by other banks the previous day.

The shift to higher interest rates in the United States followed the announcement this week of a 0.6 per cent rise in the US consumer price index in January.

Analysts now believe that the Fed is targeting the Fed Funds rate at around 9 1/4 per cent, and that there is a strong possibility of a rise to double figures for this key short-term US interest rate.

The pound, which fell by a cent to \$1.75 and by more than a penny to DM3.19 yesterday on the discount rate increase, was lifted by the Bank of England intervention.

But dealers said that underlying worries about the pound remained. The sterling index fell by 0.2 points to 95.5.

Concern over Britain's poor balance of payments and inflation position has been compounded by political worries, and the Government's poor showing in the Richmond by-election.

Attention is focusing upon Britain's trade figures for January, to be published next Wednesday.

Expectations are that the figures will show a small deterioration from the £1.26 billion current account deficit recorded for December.

FKI Babcock in talks on sale of electrical division

By Our City Editor

FKI Babcock, the electrical equipment to power engineering group, is in discussions which may lead to a cash offer for a major part of its business.

It is believed the potential bidder is interested in the electrical division, whose products range from automotive components to control equipment. The division also takes in the electrical engineering and mining activities owned by Babcock before the merger with FKI in 1987.

The group said yesterday that the aggregate value of the sale proceeds and the capitalization of the rest of operations could amount to 195p per share. This would value FKI Babcock at about £850 million. Babcock shares rose from 161p to 195p. They later slipped back to 174p.

FKI said the offer would be arranged so that shareholders receive cash directly as part of a reconstruction of the whole group.

Discussions are said to be at an early stage and no further announcements should be expected for several weeks.

be interested in a joint deal or purchase of Babcock's power engineering side. GEC, NEI and Westinghouse, the US group, have been mentioned as potential buyers.

The privatization of the power supply and distribution industry will open up what has been a depressed market in recent years.

Babcock's Lord King and GEC's chief executive, Lord Weinstock, investigated the possibility of pooling their power station equipment business during lengthy discussions last year, but the talks were called off in the spring.

In August, FKI said was considering a flotation of its electrical division, possibly via the Unlisted Securities Market.

The merger arose through an offer for Babcock from the smaller FKI group headed by Mr Tony Garland and has been judged a success by the City.

The first full-year results after the merger showed a three-fold rise in pre-tax profits to £48.5 million. Due to extensive rationalization after the merger, earnings per share rose 66 per cent.

International restructuring limits Lloyds to £952m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank announced pre-tax profits for 1988 of £952 million, disappointing the stock market which had been hoping for at least £1 billion. The bank's shares fell 10p to 354p, despite the promise of a 27 per cent increase in the dividend to 16.8p.

One reason for the shortfall in profits was a £40 million deduction for international restructuring costs.

Lloyds's profits increased 36 per cent from 1987's £818 million, excluding exceptional bad debt provisions. Most of the rise came from domestic retail banking, where profits grew 23 per cent to £672 million on increased lending and a rise in fee income.

Several of the fee earning businesses which were transferred to Abbey Life on January 1 showed sharp improvements in 1988. Black Horse Life, the life assurance company, increased profits from £4 million to £36 million, while the Black Horse estate agencies more than doubled to £18 million.

Fee income for the Lloyds group was up 17 per cent at £1.1 billion, while interest income rose only 8 per cent to £1.9 billion.

But Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds's chairman, warned that economic conditions in Britain could deteriorate. He said that the Government had to deal with "the familiar combination of external deficit and bubbling inflation

which will require some cooling to cure."

After the 1987 exceptional bad debt provisions of £1 billion against Third World debt, Lloyds international business returned to profit last year with £76 million.

Abbey Life, the unit-linked life company, announced profits slightly above its pre-merger forecasts. Group pre-tax profits rose from £234 million to £303 million, including the five businesses transferred to Abbey from Lloyds.

The results are on a pro-forma basis as if the businesses were part of Abbey last year.

Abbey is paying a 9.9p full year dividend as well as a 15p special dividend related to the merger, on May 27.

Homebuyers remained wary of taking on new mortgage commitments in January, according to figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association (Vivien Goldsmith writes).

The building societies agreed to lend £2.25 billion in January - £26 million or just over 1 per cent up on December's dismal figures. The rate of lending is running at half that of May, June and July as couples rushed to beat the deadline for the withdrawal of multiple mortgage tax relief.

The rise in bank base rates in November to 13 per cent triggered a further downturn in the housing market, and the BSA figures show that the resulting mortgage rate rise is having a sustained effect.

Mortgage lending rises 1%

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Worse-than-expected results trim quarter from share value

PWS price slumps as profits collapse

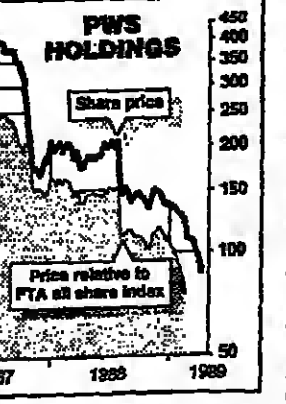
By John Bell, City Editor

Shares of PWS, the Lloyd's insurance broker, lost more than a quarter of their value when the troubled group's profits finally emerged after a week's delay.

They slumped from 109p to 78p when the results were dashed on to dealers' screens. In active trading, the price later firmed to 84p, still 34p below their peak for the year.

Before the October 1987 market crash, PWS shares were changing hands at about 400p, powered by the acquisition ambitions of Mr Raanan "Ronnie" Ben-Zur, the now-departed chief executive.

Mr Ben-Zur, still in his early 30s, lives in Tel Aviv, and holds 41 per cent of PWS, with his mother and his sisters. The Ben-Zur family effectively took control when they re-



pre-tax level, profits were £1.53 million - against £7.2 million last time.

They were struck after a £750,000 exceptional item, largely arising from a \$900,000 (£512,000) of debts relating to prior years' business from Mr Ben-Zur's companies. The board decided that it should be regarded as doubtful.

The group's disastrous US acquisition, Glens Nyhan & Associates, masterminded by Mr Ben-Zur, caused further damage. Its losses were expected to be in the region of £4 million. But because of further necessary financial support, there were below-the-line provisions of £5.5 million relating to GNA.

At the bottom line, the group sustained an attributable loss of £5.5 million (£2 million profit last time). There

was no final dividend, leaving the total payment at 3.5p per share (10.5p). Earnings per share collapsed from 23.8p to 3.7p.

The problems at GNA prompted Mr Ben-Zur's resignation last August. Mr Malcolm Pearson, the new chairman, said the group had decided not to provide more financial backing for GNA, and had also decided against a legal battle in California.

Both PWS and the GNA vendors have dropped all claims against each other. PWS has released from escrow 952,000 shares due as part payment and will attempt to place shares worth \$1.6 million to meet liabilities which would otherwise fall to GNA. But the placing cannot be done at share prices below 142p without the consent of the GNA vendors.

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Foreign & Colonial



## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## UBS sets record net profit with £285m

Union Bank of Switzerland, which saw heavy losses at Phillips & Drew, its London securities business, said most of its subsidiaries were making a profit. It announced earlier that its 1988 net profit rose 3.4 per cent to a record \$5,778.3 million (£285 million).

Mr Robert Studer, the chief executive, said Phillips & Drew was an excellent company but added that UBS had initially given its managers too much freedom and there were problems in its back office. "Our English colleagues are excellent at the front but I think we Swiss are better at logistics," Phillips & Drew's losses had hurt but should be seen in proportion to the company's market share, he said.

## Cupid buys bridal firms

Cupid, the Blackburn designer and maker of bridal gowns which came to the Third Market in September, is paying £500,000 for Jean Elizabeth, a Manchester wedding dress maker, and Bride Be Lovely, an associated retail business. The consideration - adjustable according to future profits - will be met in variable rate loan notes. The companies made £133,000 pre-tax in the year to October 19.

## Monsanto to sell offshoot

Rhône-Poulenc, the state-owned French chemicals and pharmaceutical firm, has said it intends to buy the aspirin and paracetamol activities of Monsanto, the American chemicals group. The deal, which will cost Rhône-Poulenc less than Fr2 billion (£183 million), includes two Monsanto factories in the US, one in Britain and Monsanto's share in a Thailand joint venture.

## Bosch looks at UK

Robert Bosch, the privately-owned electronics group, is considering building a plant in Britain or Spain. A Bosch spokesman said the company would announce where it was going to locate the plant in the next four to six weeks, but declined to say how many jobs or what size of investment was involved.

The spokesman said the company already had nine plants in Spain, employing about 5,000 people. The choice of where to locate in Spain was therefore easier, he said. He added that the plant would start mass production of a new range of compact car alternators in 1991. Bosch's plant near Stuttgart, which makes alternators, currently employs around 10,000. It would start limited production of the compact alternator soon.

## Biwater extends bid

Biwater, the privately-owned water treatment group, has extended its agreed £2.4 million offer for West Hampshire Water Company until March 9, with acceptance so far totalling 36.5 per cent of the votes. These include the 25 per cent holding Biwater had at the time it made its bid, on January 17. Biwater also holds a near-23 per cent stake in Bournemouth and District Water Company.

## Markheath lifts stake

Markheath Securities, the British vehicle of Mr John Spalvin, the Australian entrepreneur, has bought a further 565,000 shares in Camford Engineering, lifting its stake by almost 3 per cent to 24.01 per cent. Mr Spalvin has said he intends to increase the holding to 29.9 per cent. Mr Brian Cox, the Camford chairman, said that the current share price "is wholly inadequate for the acquisition of such a stake."

## Newmarket trims loss

The weakness of the US dollar and provisions against two unquoted holdings have trimmed net assets at Newmarket Venture Capital. At the end of 1988 they were £33.4 million against £37.1 million the year before. Newmarket, a venture capital investment company, reports a loss of £508,000 for 1988, halved from the previous year, but says its results do not give a guide to the company's progress.

Newmarket, which re-established its domicile in Britain last September, as part of a reorganization, invested \$1.4 million (£797,266) in seven US investments during the year. In Britain it raised £1.8 million from the sale of Newspaper Publishing and Baronsmead. A further \$5 million was made from the sale of quoted stocks in the US.

## Greenspan gives warning of threat to US economy as a whole

## 'Speed needed on thrifts crisis'

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan has given warning that the US savings and loan crisis must be resolved quickly.

The chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board said a speedy solution must be found to prevent a run on deposits and an escalating rate war that would cast a pall over the entire economy.

The warning capped a week of testimony in which Congress heard conflicting statements from Administration officials over the eventual cost of the S&L bailout and over the stakes involved.

President George Bush has asked Congress to act within 45 days on his proposed rescue plan for the industry, which Administration officials estimated would cost \$90 billion (£51 billion). This was the initial estimate of the cost of either closing or merging 380 bankrupt institutions, which are concentrated in south-western states.

But as Congress began a closer examination of the plan this week, Administration officials were forced to raise their estimates of total costs and of the number of institutions to be closed or merged.

They testified that costs could balloon to as much as \$200 billion over the next few decades and that the number of institutions at risk could rise to more than 1,000. The



Greenspan: Above-market rates are damaging the savings institutions and their competitors.

numbers so staggered Mr Henry Gonzalez, the chairman of the House banking committee, that he said he feared he was being asked to preside over the demise of an entire industry.

Ultimately, the cost and what it adds to the huge US budget deficit will depend on the outlook for US interest rates and on the confidence of depositors in the S&Ls, which are similar to British building societies.

Time is, therefore, of the essence, according to Mr

Greenspan, who said the problems in the US industry had produced the "worst financial crisis of the post-World War Two period."

He said in congressional testimony that only days after President Bush presented his plan, nervous depositors began pulling their money out of Texas S&Ls. The result has been an interest rate war in Texas and Oklahoma as shaky institutions vied with each other to hold on to deposits.

In Texas, in recent weeks, rates on six-month deposits have escalated to 10.75 per cent, the highest rate in the nation.

Mr Greenspan said the daily operating expenses of the troubled institutions were greatly in excess of their income, which had forced them to offer above-market rates to attract deposits.

"In operating in this way, they not only hurt themselves and the insurance funds which back deposits, but as they drive up rates, they also injure their competitors and the economy as a whole. It has the

effect of driving up rates generally," Mr Greenspan said.

President Bush, announcing his rescue plan, sought to reassure investors that their deposits up to \$100,000 had the backing of the federal government and were not at risk.

But net deposit withdrawals, which set records in November and December, could set another in January when results are announced, officials said.

The withdrawals have heightened fears of a liquidity crisis and are the main reason Administration officials are pressing Congress for a speedy response. So far, however, negotiations over the complicated rescue plan have proved difficult, because of growing Congressional scepticism over the accuracy and adequacy of the Bush programme.

Booz, Allen & Hamilton, the independent consultant, recently completed a study which concluded that Mr Bush's plan did not address the coming crisis in the industry which would affect up to 1,000 marginal institutions.

It said these institutions are considered solvent under current regulatory standards but that most have capital of less than 3 per cent of assets, or are operating at a loss on earnings which are so low that they have no chance of earning their way to healthy.

## Toyota may find UK a bargain

By Kevin Eason Motoring Correspondent

Toyota executives are in Britain to start their search for a manufacturing base. But their visit was shrouded in secrecy yesterday with neither the Japanese car group nor local authorities willing to give away their movements.

As their search moved into top gear, new statistics showed that the Japanese could be employing one of the hardest working and cheapest labour forces in the world by setting up in Britain.

British car workers come second last in the pay league, above Spain, while only those in the US and Japan work more hours than the British.

The figures will interest Toyota, which began its fact-finding mission in Shrewsbury, considered an outside contender for the £600 million manufacturing plant, which would produce 200,000 cars a year.

However, Shropshire County Council officials who organ-

Labour costs in motor industry per hour		Hours worked per employee/year	
West Germany	£12.34	Japan	2,181
US	£12.05	US	1,938
Sweden	£11.72	UK	1,802
Japan	£10.70	Spain	1,722
Belgium	£10.28	Italy	1,685
Netherlands	£9.75	Netherlands	1,608
Italy	£8.90	France	1,563
France	£7.95	West Germany	1,543
UK	£7.23	Belgium	1,517
Spain	£7.03	Sweden	1,460

ized the one-day visit, refused to confirm whether they had held talks with the Japanese.

The Japanese are notoriously guarded about their activities before a deal is clinched, but the Toyota team is thought to be moving on to Wales to study another two sites, which could take the 3,000 jobs on offer.

Britain is now the leading contender for the Toyota investment, especially as other nations are in danger of pricing themselves out of the market by paying higher wages.

Figures produced by the West German motor industry association, VDA, show that the Germans have the highest labour costs in the motor industry, averaging more than £12 an hour. The Americans are also at more than £12 while Japan has leapt to fourth in the past year with hourly labour costs of about £10.

By contrast, car manufacturers in Britain have labour costs averaging £7.23 an hour. Spain's rapid growth as a car maker - fourth in Europe and sixth in the world - is underpinned by the lowest employ-

ment costs of the Western industrialized nations. The total hourly rate there is just £7.03.

But it is in the number of hours worked, including overtime, where the British show they are shedding their work-shy image. Britain is third in the table behind Japan, where workers put in an astonishing 2,189 hours per year, and the US, where an annual 1,938 hours are worked.

Britain's 1,802, recorded in 1987, beats Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France and West Germany, where agreements in the engineering industry to reduce the working week have helped cut the annual hours per employee to 1,543.

Britain will need this kind of performance if it is to reverse a record trade gap on motor industry products - up 53 per cent last year to £5.1 billion. The industry accounted for a third of Britain's £20.34 billion visible deficit and manufacturers are pessimistic that figures will be any better in 1989.

## Sydney centre sold by MEPC

By Our City Staff

MEPC, Britain's second largest property group, has sold the Exchange Centre in Sydney to Armstrong Jones for Aus\$370 million (£175 million) cash, believed to be one of Australia's largest ever property deals.

Armstrong Jones, the fund manager, is buying the centre for its Australian growth fund and is paying half on June 30, the rest next year.

The centre houses the Sydney Stock Exchange and 415,000 square feet of offices in Sydney's central business district. It was valued at Aus\$307 million in MEPC's books at the end of September.

Mr Jim Broadbent, the MEPC Australia managing director, said the proceeds would allow the group to develop more aggressively in Australia. The size of the Exchange Centre investment had inhibited the company's activities in Sydney.

The group says it is "well advanced" with plans for a redevelopment of its Caravel shopping centre in Sydney. MEPC Australia has assets of more than one billion dollars and occupies more than 10 per cent of the entire group's portfolio. Shares in MEPC rose 5p to 558p.

## Bromsgrove agreed bid for Delmar

By Martin Walker

Bromsgrove Industries, Mr Bijan Sedghi's fast-growing Midlands engineering group, is making an agreed £4.93 million bid for Delmar Group, the USM-quoted plastic and rubber products group.

Bromsgrove is offering 70p cash a share, with a convertible loan note alternative. Delmar's shares advanced 10p to match the cash terms.

The bidder already has a 14.9 per cent stake in Delmar, with underlinings from 70 per cent of the company.

Accepting Delmar shareholders will receive a special 1.875p interim dividend. Delmar reported sharply lower interim profits of £26,000 in November, down from £161,000.

Mr Sedghi said the purchase was in no way the result of a distress sale, and all the existing management would be staying.

## Rover to invest £1bn over next five years

By Our Motoring Correspondent

Rover has spent £170 million on equipment to build its important mid-range car which will be launched this year.

The car, codenamed R8, is vital to the company's growth. It signals the start of a £1 billion investment programme at its two Midlands car plants over the next five years.

Mr Andy Barr, Rover's

manufacturing director, said the £170 million for equipping assembly and paint lines at Longbridge, Birmingham, and Swindon was the first stage.

Rover needs the R8 to win sales, especially in the fleet sector, against rivals like the Ford Escort, and new overseas competition from Renault, Citroen and Peugeot.

RECENT ISSUES	
Equities	285.48
Apple Metals (50p)	71
Asa Partners	75
Bardon Group	154
Bateman (62p)	79.5
Brit Steel N/P (50p)	75
Capital Leasing (44p)	79.5
Cassidy Bros	58.5
Channel Express (70p)	400
CLF Yeoman	334
Compass Group (245p)	185
Devering (154p)	185
Embassy Prop Group	189
Europe Minerals (100p)	115.2
Farpoint (125p)	132
Hidrex Estate	72
Hoskins Brewery	80
Malaysian Group (47p)	46.1
National Freight	100
Metco Radio (110p)	253
Planning Research (120p)	140
Poddington	28

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Charterhall N/P	3 1/2
Charles Hopper N/P	10.2
Episcopi N/P	5 1/2
Highgate N/P	24.2
Lynch Group N/P	6.1
Memom Int N/P	6.4
Spanco N/P	1 1/2
Woodingtons N/P	1 1/2

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS	
First Dealings	Last Dealings
February 20	March 5
Call options were taken out: 24/2/89 M&P Group, ICI, Exploration Co of Louisiana, Eurochemic, Unilever, Alkermes, Datas, Eutec, J. Williams, Reed Int, Ocean Wilsons, Southdown, Marley, Gencor, S&B, Magnat, Bute Mining, Kail, Conroy Petroleum, Newstead, Southern Property, CI Group, P&C, and others.	

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ABX (9400)	280.00
ABX (9500)	280.00
ABX (9600)	280.00
ABX (9700)	280.00
ABX (9800)	280.00
ABX (9900)	280.00
ABX (10000)	280.00



# MBS chief executive leaves after 'likely loss' warning

By Martin Waller

MBS, the battered Windsor computer distributor, has announced the sudden departure of Mr Stafford Taylor, its chief executive, and another profits warning, with a pre-tax loss forecast for calendar 1988.

Mr Taylor was one of the ex-IBM team who joined in 1985 to turn MBS around. It was then known as Micro Business Systems. MBS said Mr Owen Williams would stay as chairman but the chief executive's job would be merged with that of managing director for product sales, meaning Mr Taylor's replacement with Mr Derek Lewis in one course.

A spokesman for the company refused to say if the split

was amicable. Legal negotiations are taking place over Mr Taylor's compensation, which could reach £360,000 on the basis of his three-year rolling contract at a present annual salary of £120,000.

The two have an unenviable reputation as heads of MBS. They have raised a total of almost £50 million in four separate share issues since joining, the most recent in March last year at 75p.

At yesterday's share price, down 5p to 42p, the company is capitalized at £42 million, with net debt estimated at about £10 million.

The latest trouble for MBS came last summer when it

withdrew from low-volume wholesaling business after IBM decided to increase the number of British distributors from two to eight.

In September, it announced a restructuring and redundancy programme after interim pre-tax profits fell from £1.36 million to £215,000.

The latest news is that trading continued to be difficult until mid-way through the fourth quarter of 1988, with a loss therefore likely for the full year when figures are announced in March.

Mr Patrick Wellington, an analyst at County NatWest, the broker, has now trimmed his forecast for 1989 by £2

million to £3 million. This compares with optimistic indications from the company that implied a figure as high as £7 million this year.

Yesterday's statement said the restructuring had made "significant progress" and the resulting organization was now "significantly leaner and concentrates on its principal core activities."

Mr Stafford and Mr Owen agreed, at the time of the last placing, to take almost 3 million new shares on their own account at a 15p premium to the placing price. The vast majority of this money, 89p a share, is due for payment in December.

## Brittan blames higher costs on refusal to join EMS

By Michael Dynes

In his most forthright criticism of Government economic policy, Sir Leon Brittan, the UK Commissioner responsible for competition policy, yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of imposing unnecessary costs on British business through her persistent refusal to allow Britain to participate in the EMS.

Sir Leon, who also holds the EEC dossier for financial services, held out the prospect of reduced inflation, lower costs for business, and greater influence over controversial Community moves towards economic and monetary integration once Britain becomes a full member of the EMS.

Addressing the European Business Institute in London, Sir Leon said the success of the EMS in limiting currency fluctuations and containing inflation among participating states "has been a highly constructive development both for them and for the cohesion of the Community."

"The next step should be sterling's full membership of the system, within the same parity band as the mark and the French franc. This would be a clear signal to the financial markets that the UK Government's undoubted political commitment to low inflation had been given institutional form," he added.

Britain is already a member of the EMS to so far as sterling participates in the European Currency Unit (Ecu), but re-



Joining the fight for EMS membership: Sir Leon Brittan

mains outside the system's exchange rate mechanism.

Full participation "would help to make lower inflation easier to achieve, so lessening the costs in output foregone by the move from over 7 per cent inflation here to the 2-3 per cent level enjoyed in Germany and elsewhere."

"It would also be of concrete and lasting benefit to British business and industry by providing for the first time a framework within which receipts from goods exported to the Community could be planned in sterling," which

would be of particular benefit to small businesses.

"A 15 per cent movement in exchange rates over a year can mean the difference between a useful profit and an unsustainable loss. Other countries to Europe now have this benefit - why not Britain as well?"

Sir Leon said intra-Community trade in the past 15 years had grown twice as rapidly as with the rest of the world, attributable to the development of the internal market; but also to "the zone of monetary stability which the EMS has brought to the Community."

## First Technology lifts Ricardo bid

By Michael Tate

First Technology looked to be moving closer to victory in its bid for Ricardo Group last night, after launching an increased - and final - offer worth £22.7 billion.

The new terms - 20 First Technology shares for every 57 Ricardo - value each Ricardo share at 156p, or 28.9 times Ricardo's last full-year earnings, said Dr Fred West-

lake, chairman and chief executive. Ricardo shareholders can alternatively opt for a cash payment of 145.26p a share.

First Technology shares improved 5p to 450p, lifting the value of the share swap terms by a couple of pence, and Ricardo, with First Technology in the market, rose 7p to 147p.

At the first closing date this

week, First Technology was claiming 33.4 per cent, and can count on another 1.9 per cent, representing PrivatBank Zurich's commitment.

The figure also included a stake of about 5 per cent committed, in error, on behalf of Schroders Investment Management. SIM and its administrators are disputing the telephoned instructions.

## Edwardes dreams of a brass City nameplate for Minorco

Continued from page 17

by fellow directors as they were travelling to France in a corporate bus.

The timing of the elevation was important. He was not appointed just to take on ConsGold, but to lead a new Minorco, which he contended was a "nomadic" investment arm looking for a home.

"Nobody knew for sure on September 20 if Minorco would bid for ConsGold. I only agreed to the new position on the assurance that Minorco and a newly constituted board would be independent of its parents, and able, on dispassionate grounds and without any historical reference to its past links, to forge its own path."

"We only bid on September 21. No, I did not need any special nod from Mr Harry Oppenheimer."

Minorco and Sir Michael have, as yet, only one foot in ConsGold's door but, representing a 29.6 per cent stake, it is a very determined foot. Sir Michael has already been vocal on the "change" he has in mind, which clearly includes the ConsGold board, in his determination to make ConsGold assets really sing.

He is similarly charged with "change" at Minorco, whose roots date from the nationalization of the Zambian copper belt. Minorco was born as a depository for dividends ex-Zambia. Its first home was Bermuda. It later moved to Luxembourg, a home it finds rather comfortable because of tax advantages and with 1992 in mind.

As a demonstration of good faith, Minorco (traded and listed on the London stock market for 60 years) has declared it will keep shareholders informed as though it were a UK company.



Short-term plan: Sir Michael has no Minorco contract

"Let me also tell you that we are absolutely determined not to overpay for ConsGold."

Sir Michael says. "And let me add that in the past we debated whether we should sell our stake. Ten days ago we even debated before our second offer, at £14, whether to bid below the first of £13."

"To overpay is death," says the man who has been at the

defending end of two hostile bids. Does Sir Michael see Minorco as a lifetime job? Is it the peak of his career?

"Heavens, no. I see it as, possibly, a three-year role. I do not have a company pension. I am still negotiating a contract with Minorco, and with a modest amount of private capital I enjoy playing around with investments."

Recently, Sir Michael was made chairman of Charter Consolidated, another "passive" investment to the Minorco camp.

Is he aware of the perception that being at the top at Charter can be as dangerous as sitting in Sweeney Todd's barber's chair? "Thanks for the tip."

Whether Minorco wins ConsGold or not, Sir Michael has given it a visibility which would otherwise have been achieved only by a huge advertising and PR campaign. With some extra work, Minorco will in time become a City household name.

However, the City will only really know that Minorco has arrived when it puts up its own brass nameplate in London and its switchboard answers with a cheery: "Good morning. This is Minorco."

At present it operates from rented offices in an unmarked house on the right-hand side of Ely Place, in the City. Entrance is monitored by a remote-controlled TV camera. The telephone is answered with a whispered number only, and in a voice which one fully expects to demand: "Password!"

"I am itching to put up our own brass plate," Sir Michael says. "If we win ConsGold we plan a London staff of up to 30 instead of the current eight."

Sir Michael says. "If not, then the centre of gravity will return to Luxembourg. Even so, Minorco has a host of opportunities in many parts of the world - and from areas which would surprise you - to mull over."

If Sir Michael's dreams are realised, he might find himself working later this year in St James's Square. Though, as Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold chairman, might say: "Over my dead body."

## Tide of opposition prompts second thoughts on water sale

Confidence, as we are all aware, is the key to the way stock and currency markets behave. The political fortunes of Margaret Thatcher are the key to confidence in this country. For the moment they are wilting.

The Government is under sustained attack from groups who feel abused or threatened because Thatcherism is now trained on them. In mid-week, after an exceptional warm January in which the FT-SE index went up 15 per cent, the equity market caught a chill. When a public opinion poll finds that Conservative and Labour are separated by no more than the margin for statistical error the market is bound to take some notice, or more accurately reflect a twinge of fear.

The opinion poll is a critical test of the political will. Inflation is the central issue but water is something we all understand and accordingly privatizing it is thoroughly unpopular. Will the Government back down? It is weakening but retreat would smack of irresolution and incompetence.

The tide of opposition is still rising. On the one hand the public is confused, and incensed, to discover the water industry's low standards, relative to European Economic Community standards. But the public does not favour the idea of having to pay, through higher charges, to raise standards to EEC levels. Nicholas Ridley, Environment Secretary, admitted to the Commons that the privatized water industry would probably have to spend £3 billion to conform to EEC requirements, plus perhaps another £1.5 billion to switch to water metering for domestic customers.

On the other side of the same coin



are the investors in water companies' shares - should the sale take place. If the Cabinet had its time over again it would probably not have revived water privatization, but Mrs Thatcher insists that utilities are the ideal investment for small investors.

With the mammoth task of selling off electricity beginning next year, this autumn is the only chance for water. Michael Howard, the minister immediately responsible for the water sale, insists everything is proceeding according to schedule. As far as the privatization Bill is concerned he is right. But in terms of marketing privatization little or nothing is happening. Where is the bid or the bid? Publicity (bad) and public reaction (hostile) is all one way and the longer it continues the harder it will be to sell the stock.

Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank advising the Government, seems not to have the most fruitful relationship with Nicholas Ridley.

The new thought tossed into the pool, which at least recognizes difficulties with the sale, is that the initial offer might be limited to 51 per cent of the shares in each company. This is a bad idea. It smacks of defeatism and political compromise; it would make the industry a soft target for renationalization; and this knowledge and the overhang of secondary issues of the other 49 per cent would

dilute the appeal of water shares and debilitate the market in them.

Withdrawal of the water sale would have one advantage: it would reduce the expected flow of new equity into the market. A remarkable fact about the market is the virtual absence of rights issues. The pipeline is almost dry. Shortage of stock is one of the arguments of the bulls.

Essentially the debate has not changed. At the turn of the year greed supplanted fear and the fund managers moved some of their vast, accumulated cash balances into shares. The Chancellor, they were persuaded, would bring the high flying UK economy softly and safely down to earth. A soft landing means that interest rates have reached the level required to keep inflation down without a recession.

Inflation is still rising and if it went from 7.5 per cent to double figures the Government would be in a tight corner. The pound would already have come under pressure and the markets would be looking for higher interest rates, and through them, to a hard landing. But would the Government have the will to push the country into recession? It did in the early 1980s and brought inflation down. So far into the life of the present Parliament I doubt that it would again.

But I am not yet convinced that it will be necessary. Some neat footwork by the Bank of England to keep the pound in reasonable shape until the Budget and a statesmanlike display of prudent accounting on March 14 should be enough to keep interest rates at their present level and the market in the mood to consolidate the gains it made in January.

## Banking on the man to succeed

Although it is difficult to tell precisely how well because of fluctuations in the size of provisions against bad debts, the clearing banks did well in 1988. Barclays figures next week will not cloud the generally cheerful picture painted by NatWest, Midland and Lloyds.

Even NatWest's £56 million loss to investment banking (Country NatWest) which makes £250 million lost in three years seems small against group profits of £1.4 billion.

So badly for the clearing banks. Their bold on the domestic market has barely been denied by foreign competition (mainly American) they have benefited from the huge demands for credit in a booming economy; they have used their oligopolist powers (the lead and quickly follow) to good effect, fattening their profit margins at every favourable opportunity under a beneficent regime of high interest rates.

From an American perspective observed Seaborn Lehman Hutton, European banks have "a disconcerting air of invincibility." They are in a position "to flex their muscles" while US banks continue to wonder how they got it so wrong during the mid 1980s. Third World debt; oil debt; real estate debt. Oh the pain of it all, unrelieved by the expected rewards of

showing banks in sophisticated places, like western Europe, how banking was really done.

The analysis is interesting because one conclusion is that European banks now run the risk of making the same mistakes. The chief error was over expansion as managements succumbed to the fads of the time. Two in particular: the consumer financial services revolution which had to be served through financial supermarkets, and global capital markets which required integrated businesses trading around the clock.

US banks are now in a different phase. They are "restructuring" to improve their profitability; abandoning certain sectors of the market, laying off people, and forming "strategic alliances" with Japanese banks. They want the laws changed so that they can become nationwide banks, better able to beat off foreign competition in their own backyard.

Banks that survive may be "the leanest and most efficient banks in the world" about the time thrusting European banks are beginning to struggle with reduced profitability brought about by overexpansion. Conceivably the Europeans will have made the same classic errors as the Americans. The Japanese seem to avoid the more obvious mistakes. In Britain the

clearers are taking the revolution in consumer financial services seriously and Barclays and NatWest are well into the integrated securities business, at some cost.

NatWest alone seems really intent on annexing hostile territory. It has just acquired First National Bank of Central (New) Jersey, in its attempts to become a "super-regional" bank in the north-east of the US.

The market is now asking three questions of NatWest: Country NatWest, American ambitions, and the man to succeed Lord Boardman, now 70, as chairman.

The Governor of the Bank of England is too valuable where he is and should not even contemplate moving back into his old job. Rothschild is the place for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he does not go to Warburgs when they are asked to release Sir David Scholey to succeed Robbo Leigh-Pemberton at the Bank of England. Sir Peter Walters should be back to the frame but it appears he is not.

Of the thoroughbreds that leaves David Walker, ex Treasury and Bank of England, now head of the Securities and Investments Board, and Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, chairman of the Takeover Panel. Alexander's the man to go for.

Advertisement

## High earner pays no tax

Peter Fletcher is a successful entrepreneur who will earn £200,000 in this tax year. Last year, his tax bill was a frightening £105,000+. This year Peter will pay nothing at all.

He is taking advantage of special tax concessions offered through Business Expansion Schemes (BES) and Enterprise Zone property investment, which together will completely eliminate his tax liability. What's more, he won't have to dig deep into his pockets to do this as all his investments are totally self funding, through specially arranged bank loans.

Peter has invested £140,000 in Enterprise Zone property, £40,000 in BES and his remaining tax liability is mopped up by personal allowances and mortgage and pension tax relief.

But good news for the Fletcher family doesn't stop here. Peter's brother Michael, who is 28,

Charles Fry, Chairman of the City and of Johnson Fry, a company that specialises in



London Businessman, Peter Fletcher, earns £200,000 p.a. and pays no tax.

too can eliminate his entire higher rate tax liability by investing in a tax payers should be examining BES and approximately 95% of Enterprise Zones very the investment.

"One important point to stress, however, is that people should invest in now before possible Budget changes. Why companies that buy and rent pay money to the tax-man when you can out residential property. man when you can this type of investment (without any further this is the first year that utilise the same money capital outlay) to make has been available. BES individual should also be

Please contact me with further information on tax savings.

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## WALL STREET

## Dow tumbles as US rates rise

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street shares continued to fall following a rise in the Federal Reserve discount rate, a bank prime rate rise, and a gain to Federal funds rates.

Rising interest rates are bearish for shares, brokers said, though they may help fight inflation. Programme selling also hit shares.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 19.1 points at 2,270.36 in early trading and declining issues led gains by more than two to one.

"The prime rate rise is the real surprise," said Mr Larry Wachtel of Prudential Bache Securities. He said a seven-point discount rate was widely

expected. "Rising short term interest rates create alternatives to common stocks and are inevitably should hurt."

● Hong Kong — Share prices closed easier but recouped most of today's losses in volatile trade that pushed the Hang Seng index briefly below 3,100 points. The Hang Seng ended 11.03 points lower at 3,114.23. It lost 10.47 points in the last 30 minutes of trade.

● Frankfurt — The 30-share real-time DAX index closed up 16.34 points at 1,288.04. It had dropped 20.47 points on Thursday.

● Sydney — The All Ordinaries index rose 5.1 points to 1,486.2.

## Shares shrug off discount rate rise to end on firm note

Share prices in London shrugged off the prospect of dearer money on the other side of the Atlantic to end the account on a firm note.

London took the news of a half-point rise in US prime rates to 11½ per cent overnight on Wall Street in its stride. Share prices opened firmer helped by the appearance of a few buyers for the new account which starts on Monday. But the Federal Reserve's decision to raise the discount rate a half-point to 7 per cent had share investors running for cover.

The FT-SE 100 closed up 2.9 points at 2,019.3. The narrower FT 30 index was 8.5 higher at 1,669.2 at 3.30pm.

A £90 million mixed programme trade by Smith New Court, the broker, helped quotations consolidate round the higher levels.

Dollar earners made all the running as the currency traded strongly on foreign exchange markets. No further consideration of higher US rates, but overall the volume of trade remained small.

With the Chancellor's terse comment that there will be no question of a premature let-up in interest rates still ringing in fund managers' ears, institutional investors remained on the sidelines.

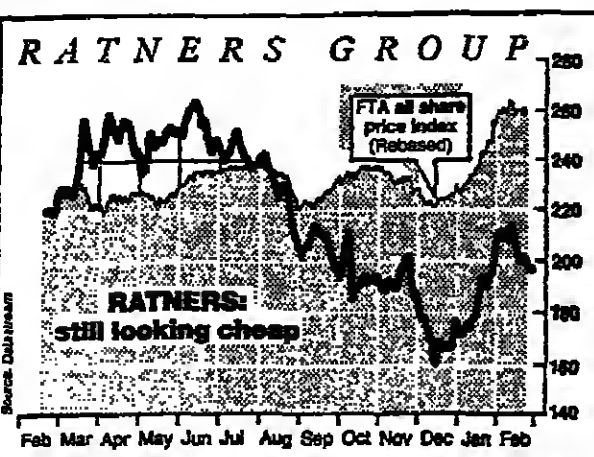
Government securities recovered earlier falls to close with gains stretching to ½% on the day.

Food manufacturers were a dull market worried by reports that the US corn crop had been ravaged by a drought-induced fungus. Corn remains a big ingredient of many food products and shortages are certain to drive the price higher adding to manufacturers' costs.

United Biscuits reflected the fears, slipping 2p to 22½, while Tate & Lyle, which has big corn syrup interests in the US fell 5p to 22½. Falls were also seen in Ranks Hovis McDougall, 1p to 37½, and Hillsdown Holdings, 1p to 28½.

Meanwhile, Appletree continued to lose ground, sliding 3p to 105p — a two-day loss of 39p — after bid talks this week broke down.

Eagle Trust, the Birmingham express parcels-to-property mini-conglomerate, advanced 14p to 16½p as a



big buyer continued to make its presence felt.

Dealers have been alerted by a persistent buyer who has been only too pleased to swallow large lots of ET stock as soon as it comes on to the market. They believe the buyer must be close to holding a discloseable stake of almost 5 per cent.

BPB Industries rose 4p to 246p. On Thursday the group had lunch with Williams de Broe, the broker, and later gave a presentation to fund managers arranged by Barclays de Zoete Wedd. But its reception was mixed and there are still worries about a plasterboard price war.

There has been talk of an imminent management buy-out of 20p a share, but dealers have treated the story with scepticism.

ET, headed by Mr John Friday, announced interim profits up nearly four times to £7.6 million and the City is looking for £17.5 million for the full-year.

Shares of Ratners, the H Samuel, Ernest Jones and Zales jewellery group, which have lost a lot of their recent sparkle, closed unchanged at 196p.

But Hoare Govett, the broker, is still urging clients to buy the shares, claiming they are cheap and trading at a discount to the market.

The Zales/Salsbury stores acquisition from Next will prove to be an excellent long-term deal and earnings prospects are good. Christmas trading was ahead of budget and profits growth was up in January.

roadshow which gets under way next week.

Noble & Land, the specialist engineer and consumer products group, gained 4p to 103p on revived speculative buying.

Mr Ross Martin and Mr Peter Williams, two New Zealand businessmen, recently took management control of N&L by reversing their Theus Investments vehicle into the company.

Dealers are hoping that the new antipodean team will inject some of its assets into N&L. They have said they intend to pull the group out of engineering.

Kicking Penicost, the textiles group, jumped 6p to 107½p with dealers banking on a bid. Robertshaw Holdings, a private property development company run by Mr Stuart Robertshaw, a Yorkshire businessman, has increased its stake in HP to more than 17 per cent and the market believes the move is a prelude to a full offer.

Based on the perception that more people will be ignoring the Costa del Sol this summer to spend their holidays in places like Butlins because of the financial burdens of higher credit and dearer mortgages, buyers chased Bank Organisation 7p higher to 90½p.

MEPC, the property group, rose 5p to 55½p following the news that it had sold the Sydney Stock Exchange building for A\$370 million (£17.4 million) in what is believed to be one of the biggest-ever property deals in Australia.

Regalia Properties jumped 13p to 140p as the company announced the sale of an office development site in London for £130 million.

James Finlay, the Glasgow international trader and financier, jumped 7p to 118p on the news that John Swire & Sons, the private holding company which controls Swire Group of Hong Kong, has increased its stake in the company to 29.9 per cent of the voting rights.

Elders IXL, the Australian brewer held almost 6 per cent of James Finlay and is considered to be a possible bidder for the group which has a break-up value of between 130p and 160p a share, say analysts.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

## INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Market	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%	0%
Bank of England	4.55	4.00	3.70	none	none	7 day
Ordinary Dep A/c	4.55	4.00	3.70	none	none	7 day
Typical	4.55	4.00	3.70	none	none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:						
1 month	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
3 months	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
6 months	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
1 year	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
2 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
3 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
4 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
5 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 5 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 10 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 15 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 20 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 25 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 30 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 35 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 40 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 45 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 50 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 55 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 60 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 65 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 70 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 75 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 80 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 85 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 90 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 95 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50
Over 100 years	4.75	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Bank of England	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Scotland	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Ireland	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Wales	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Cyprus	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Greece	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Spain	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Portugal	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of France	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Germany	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Italy	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Japan	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Korea	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of China	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of India	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Australia	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of New Zealand	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of South Africa	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Argentina	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Brazil	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Mexico	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Colombia	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Venezuela	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Peru	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Ecuador	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Chile	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Uruguay	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Paraguay	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Cuba	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Haiti	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Dominican Republic	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Guatemala	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of El Salvador	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Honduras	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Nicaragua	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Costa Rica	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Panama	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Belize	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Guatemala	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of El Salvador	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Honduras	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Nicaragua	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Costa Rica	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Panama	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Belize	4.55	7 day	none

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Bank of England	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Scotland	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Ireland	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Wales	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Cyprus	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Greece	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Spain	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Portugal	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of France	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Germany	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Italy	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Japan	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Korea	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of China	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of India	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Australia	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of New Zealand	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of South Africa	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Argentina	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Brazil	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Mexico	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Colombia	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Venezuela	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Peru	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Ecuador	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Chile	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Uruguay	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Paraguay	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Cuba	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Haiti	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Dominican Republic	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Guatemala	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of El Salvador	4.55	7 day	none
Bank of Honduras	4.55	7 day	none
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**The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading**

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 96.5 (day's range 96.5-96.8).					
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					
Market rates for February 24					
	1 month	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months
New York	1.7515-1.7565	1.7615-1.7635	0.48-0.42p	1.27-1.23p	
London	1.7515-1.7565	2.0745-2.0765	0.27-0.21p	1.29-1.25p	
Amsterdam	3.61415-3.61615	3.61-3.61715	17-16 1/2	67-66 1/2	
Brussels	67.08-67.11	67.08-67.10	35-20p	80-85p	
Frankfurt	12.4835-12.5115	12.4835-12.4935	64-63 1/2	145-144 1/2	
Paris	1.1917-1.1919	1.1917-1.1919	153-141 1/2	153-141 1/2	
Copenhagen	3.1982-3.2114	3.1982-3.2118	13-14 1/2	47-46 1/2	
Lisbon	263.78-265.80	264.25-265.80	300p-150p	80p-150p	
Stockholm	2.265-2.265.80	2.265-2.265.80	20p	70p-60p	
Milan	2.265-2.265.80	2.265-2.265.80	70p-60p	70p-60p	
Oslo	17.1100-17.1470	17.1100-17.1125	17-15 1/2	52-48 1/2	
Geneva	1.1505-1.1515	1.1505-1.1515	15-14 1/2	52-48 1/2	
Stockholm	11.0085-11.0420	11.0085-11.0288	15-14 1/2	52-48 1/2	
Tokyo	221.22-222.42	221.22-221.53	17-15 1/2	47-45 1/2	
Zurich	2.27-2.27.45	2.27-2.27.45	15-14 1/2	52-48 1/2	
Vienna	2.27-2.27.45	2.27-2.27.45	15-14 1/2	52-48 1/2	

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Australia general	31.894-32.104
Bahamas	1.024-1.024
Bahrain dollar	1.0505-0.0505
Brazil cruzeiro	1.7427-1.7627
Cyprus pound	0.0505-0.0505
Dominican Republic	1.4505-1.4505
Greece drachma	288.25-270.25
Hong Kong dollar	13.6882-13.6877
India rupee	47.775-47.775
Kuwait dirham	0.5035-0.5035
Malaysia ringgit	2.7756-2.7756
Malta pound	4.775-4.775
New Zealand dollar	4.775-4.775
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6700-5.6700
South Africa rand	0.775-0.775
S.Africa rand (fin)	0.8343-0.8343
S.Africa rand (com)	4.4447-4.4447
S.E. Asian	0.4550-0.4550

Ireland	1.695-1.610	Denmark	7.110-7.120	Italy	1347.9-1348.0
Singapore	1.929-1.932	W Germany	1.824-1.825	Belgium (Com)	36.30-38.30
Malaysia	2.725-2.735	Switzerland	1.550-1.560	Hong Kong	7.799-7.800
Australia	1.218-1.213	Netherlands	2.0515-2.0630	Portugal	130.65-130.90
Canada	1.195-1.195	France	6.220-6.230	Spain	114.50-114.70
Sweden	6.280-6.231	Japan	126.40-126.50	Austria	12.85-12.85
Norway	6.690-6.690				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Edco.

[illegible]

### THIRD MARKET

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## FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

## Credit cards reach age of assent

Vivien Goldsmith in the plastic jungle, where cards have blossomed in the hothouse atmosphere of competition

Consumers now have to decide in advance whether or not they want to use their credit cards to borrow before they can decide which card offers the best value.

They also have to have a good idea how much they will borrow as well as make the right decision about which card to take.

Credit cards used to be simple — they all offered the same terms, and the same rates. But no longer.

The launch of a clutch of new credit cards in the run-up to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the industry due in May has demonstrated that diversity does not necessarily sharpen competition.

Consumers can no longer tell which is the cheapest card merely by looking at the annual percentage rate.

Two things have happened to change this. Firstly, the introduction of cards with a fee such as American Express' Optima and the new Visa card from Save & Prosper, has meant that flat-rate calculations no longer work.

If there is a flat fee then the cost of any credit taken will be lower the larger the sum that is borrowed.

Secondly, it is no longer safe to assume that the terms of the card are standard. For instance, Assent, the new card from Barclays Bank, has done away with the interest-free period.

This is a particularly sharp move by Barclays because interest-free period does not come into the calculations for the annual percentage rate on credit cards. So the card which has an annual percentage rate

of 19.9 looks much better value than it actually is.

Assent is not a classic credit card at all, it is a budget card modelled on the cards devised by stores where cardholders have to pay a set monthly sum and can take credit up to 25 times that amount.

Interest is charged at 1.53 per cent a month, an annual percentage rate of 19.9 per cent.

Barclays promoted the card, which will be available from March 6, by comparing it with the annual percentage rates charged by other cards. It looked very good.

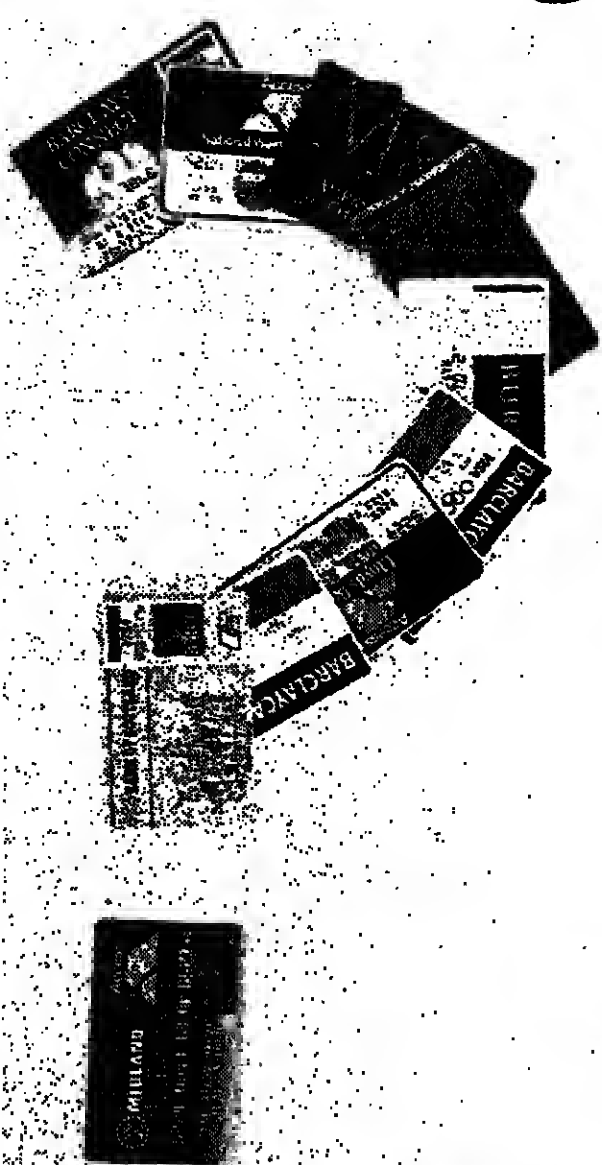
But then it would, because the annual percentage rates on the other cards do not take into account the interest-free period of up to 56 days between making a purchase with a credit card and interest falling due.

Save & Prosper have calculated that the annual percentage rate on their standard card would fall from 22.7 per cent to 20.6 per cent if 30 days' interest-free credit was taken into account.

The minimum monthly payment on Assent is £16, giving a credit limit of £400, and the maximum £300, giving a credit limit of £7,500.

The monthly minimum payment must be made by direct debit and no interest is given on credit balances if this amount is not spent on the card. But Barclays said it would consider introducing interest if there was a demand for it.

There is no fee for the card but Mr Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Barclays Central Retail Services Division, emphasized that although there are



no firm plans to introduce a fee at the moment this could change "in the next year or so."

Anyone who goes more than 3 per cent beyond the credit limit with Assent will be charged £5. The same penalty

will be levied if a direct debit is not paid or the account is more than 21 days late. A £10 charge will be made if a default notice is issued.

Assent, with an annual percentage rate of 19.9 appears to undercut Barclaycard

which has a monthly charge of 2 per cent making an rate of 26.8 per cent — and many other bank credit cards. But it will not appeal to the increasing number of people who use credit cards as a means of payments and clear the balance every month.

But it may be a challenge to the in-house credit cards. Marks and Spencer charges 34.5 per cent apr, Dixons 33.7 per cent and Miss Selfridge 33.4 per cent.

C&A pays interest of 3.76 per cent to customers in credit while charging 29.8 per cent for borrowings.

Mr Ellwood said that the card would appeal to people who had rejected normal credit cards because they wanted to feel their borrowings were "totally under their control". Bank revolving credit accounts are not new. Lloyds already has Cashflow which allows customers to borrow up to 30 times the amount deposited every month.

The interest rate is 1.61 per cent a month an apr of 20.9 per cent. It also has a budget account which uses the cocoon method of money management — customers pay in a twelfth of their estimated annual spending on the account.

There is interest on balances and the same interest rate as Cashflow on borrowings. Nat West also has a budget account. Midland Bank this week launched its new credit card, Indigo, a Visa card which comes with two of the new interest-bearing current accounts — Vector and Meridian.

This card confounds comparison because it is only available at the moment on accounts where there is a £10 a month fee — although this is waived on Meridian if the account is in either credit or deficit by more than £1,000.

The sums are further complicated because the more you

borrow, the lower the rate of interest. Borrowers pay 1.2 per cent a month on sums over £1,000, 1.4 per cent on £500 to £1,000 and 1.6 per cent on smaller amounts.

Amex customers who are being offered the Optima credit card also face a bewildering morass of statistics. While the monthly charge on the card is 1.32 per cent, which is equivalent

to 17 per cent a year. But the annual percentage rate is much higher because of the £10 card fee and the cost of the Amex charge card must be taken into account.

A green Amex card costs £32.50 a year and a gold card £70 a year.

So the apr varies according to how much credit is taken. A debt of £2,500 results in an apr of 19 per cent, but a £4,000 loan reduces the annual percentage rate to 18.2 per cent.

Save & Prosper now offers its customers the choice between two Visa cards — a free one which charges 1.725 per cent a month — an apr of 22.7 or a card which costs £8 a year but charges 1.5 per cent a month — a typical apr of 19.8 per cent.

Allied Irish Bank's new credit card with a monthly charge of 1.5 per cent — an apr of 19.5 holds out the temptation of a cheque book which will be charged directly to the credit card debt.

This costs £12 a year plus 10p for every cheque. These cheque transactions will not benefit from an interest-free period in the same way as cash withdrawals.

## Town &amp; Country rate card.

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## SUPER 60

10.15% = 13.53%  
9.65% = 12.87%  
9.40% = 12.53%

No penalty withdrawal given 60 days' notice of balance (after withdrawal) remains above £5000. Immediate withdrawal with loss of just 60 days' interest. Minimum investment of £2500 or £1000 if monthly income interest rate of 0.25% less than current rate if interest paid half yearly and 1% less if paid monthly.

## SUPERSHARES

9.35% = 12.47%  
9.15% = 12.20%  
8.65% = 11.53%  
6.15% = 8.20%

## MONEYWISE CHEQUE ACCOUNT

Cheque Book, Cheque Guarantee/Visa Card, Pass Book, Lloyds Cash Machine Card, Direct Debit, Standing Orders.

9.15% = 12.47%  
8.65% = 11.53%  
6.15% = 8.20%

Non UK Resident Gross Rate account 12.5%  
Interest credited or paid annually on 30th June. \*Subject to conditions.  
\*Gross equivalent rate to income tax payer at 25%. All rates quoted are variable.  
Send the coupon now to: Town & Country Building Society, FREEPOST 98, Church Lane, Essex, CO1 1HT or telephone 0335 123555.

Please send full information about Town & Country accounts.

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IF YOU'RE ASTUTE, YOU'LL TAKE THE TOWN & COUNTRY ROUTE.

INVESTMENTS

## Bank clients to reap benefits of being all right with Jack

Life after Jack should be somewhat more pleasurable for bank customers. The Jack Committee, set up by the Treasury two years ago to investigate the state of banking legislation, produced its recommendations this week, and came down firmly on the side of the consumer.

The most important recommendation, as far as customers are concerned, is the idea of a new code defining the relationship of banks with their customers — a kind of customers charter.

The idea is not entirely new — Midland Bank, for example, has tinkered with it. But never before has there been a single code agreed by all the banks.

If Professor Robert Jack, chairman of the committee, has his way, the code will clear up crucial grey areas.

Electronic banking has been a particular problem. If something goes wrong with the electronic systems, it is often hard to prove who is at fault. When customers claim that they have been debited for a withdrawal from a cash machine when the money never

actually came out, who is to say whether or not they are telling the truth?

The tendency has often been to assume that the customer is at fault. That is now changing. The Jack Committee wants the banks to assume all responsibility for faulty electronic systems. This includes faulty cash dispensers, which usually form the largest single area of complaint to the Banking Ombudsman.

With the growth of electronic banking and cashless shopping, this is an important principle to establish.

The same spirit lies behind the Jack proposal for the Banking Ombudsman to be made statutory, like the Building Societies Ombudsman.

This would strengthen its powers and make it properly independent of the banks which, at present, fund it and could theoretically influence its decisions (although there is no suggestion that they have actually attempted to do this).

The Jack Committee clearly feels that in an age when financial services are becoming

more complicated, technical, and computer-driven, the customer needs more safeguards. The natural instinct of bankers is to explain as little as possible to the public.

Under the new charter, they will no longer be able to do that. They will even have to explain such things as bank charges and even the way the clearing system works, if customers want to know.

This is the real significance of the committee's recommendations. Its 80 or more proposals include suggestions for three new banking acts to cover various areas of bank activities.

These are mostly quite technical and would have no great significance for ordinary bank customers.

The committee has reported and most of its ideas have been welcomed by the banks. The question now is how many of them will be put into practice. Only then will customers know how much they have really gained.

Richard Thomson  
Banking Correspondent

## Mortgage with added Pep from Dominion

The first mortgage which can be repaid used a personal equity plan has been launched. This takes the freedom of the unit trust mortgage and gives it an extra kick with the tax-free perks of a Pep.

But Dominion Investment Management has chosen a strange time to launch the plan — ahead of the Budget, which may change the ground rules for Peps. Although there is a lobby for income tax relief to be given on sums invested in Peps, it is much more likely that the Chancellor will resist this and just allow larger sums to be invested.

At the moment, the maximum investment in a Pep is £3,000 a year. After one calendar year the income and capital is completely free of all taxes.

Mr John Wilson, managing director of Dominion, has calculated that over 25 years a single person could find a mortgage of £294,000, investing £3,000 a year into a Pep. This assumes an investment return midway between the 8.5 per cent and 13 per cent projections which have to be used under Financial Services Act legislation.

For a £30,000 mortgage over 25 years for a 30-year-old man, Dominion would require £26 a month to be paid into the Pep, plus a further £4 a month for life cover. This £30 a month would be a saving of £7 a month on a typical low-cost endowment.

The Pep mortgage is akin to the pension mortgage, which brings all the tax relief of a



Wilson head of Dominion

pension to mortgages. But there is the great advantage of flexibility.

With a pension the money is locked away and cannot be touched until retirement. But a Pep mortgage — like a unit trust or investment trust mortgage — is much more versatile. Surplus funding can be withdrawn from a Pep mortgage as long as the cash has been invested for more than a calendar year.

There also has to be, of course, provision for topping up the payments if the investment falls behind or the borrower wants to pay-off the mortgage early.

The money put into the Pep will be managed by Scottish Amicable. After five years, or when the Pep portfolio has grown to £20,000, borrowers will be able to give instructions for particular shares to be bought on their behalf, but before then, the investment decisions will be undertaken

entirely by the Scottish Amicable. There will be an initial charge of 5 per cent and an annual management fee of 1.25 per cent for the first 10 years of the plan and 0.75 per cent thereafter.

The money for the mortgages comes from a variety of building societies, which will charge their own interest rates.

Lloyds Bank, which has the largest slice of the Pep market, says that it has not ruled out launching a Pep mortgage. "We are thinking of thinking about it," said a Lloyds spokesman.

MIM Britannia is enthusiastic about using Peps as a means of promoting tax-efficient unit trust saving. It is promoting a Pep which invests in MIM Britannia's Income & Growth Fund. It expects to be able to launch a Pep mortgage in conjunction with the in-house National Employers Life, which has its own mortgage arm, in the early summer.

Mr Keith Crowley, a director of MIM Britannia unit trust managers, said that the restriction on the amount of unit trusts that could be put into a Pep plan was a handicap. A maximum of £540 a year or £45 a month can be put into unit trusts in a Pep. These figures would be double for two people taking out a joint mortgage.

V.G.

Dominion Investment Management, 120, Church Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1WD.

## Which company would you buy your pension from?

## PERSONAL PENSION PLANS PAST PERFORMANCE

The following table shows the number of times a company has featured in the Top Three positions in surveys of actual results for 10, 15 and 20 year regular contribution with profits personal pension plans carried out by "Planned Savings" magazine, 1974-1988.

COMPANY	1st	2nd	3rd
EQUITABLE LIFE	14	7	1
NFI	4	8	3
PRUDENTIAL	3	4	3
NORWICH UNION	1	2	3
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	1	1	—
SCOTTISH LIFE	1	—	3
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	1	—	2
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1	—	—
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	1	—	—
PROVIDENT MUTUAL	—	2	7
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	—	1	1
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	—	1	—
SUN ALLIANCE	—	1	—
STANDARD LIFE	—	—	2
EQUITY & LAW	—	—	1
SCOTTISH AMICABLE	—	—	1

Since 1974, the authoritative financial journal Planned Savings has published surveys of money paid out by regular contribution with profits personal pension policies over 10, 15 and 20 years.

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## FAMILY MONEY

Going for a killing on the Traded Options Market is not for the faint-hearted, says Hilary Doling

## Trading an ulcer for the pot of gold

An unnamed stock market investor hit the headlines this week, when he became a millionaire three times over by gambling on the precarious options market.

He apparently turned his original £9,700 stake into millions by speculating on the level at which the FTSE-100 index would finish the month.

However, before you are tempted to cash in your life savings, make a quick fortune in options and retire to the Bahamas, there are a few things you might care to consider.

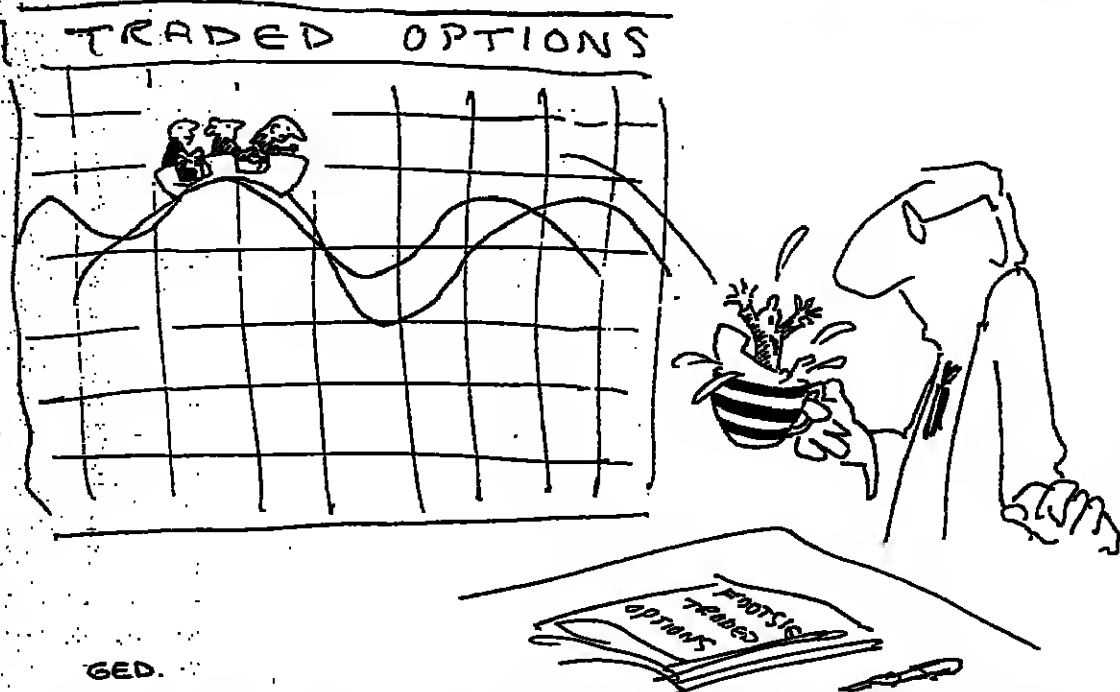
Those who deal in options are playing a hunch, gambling on the fact that their view of the market will be accurate over a set length of time. The idea is that you pay a premium to take out an option to buy (known as "call"), or sell (known as "put"), any time within a given period.

If you choose not to exercise this right, then you lose the whole premium you paid.

Since 1978 it has been possible to buy and sell options themselves on the London Traded Options Market and for many people the market has become, as one speculator put it, "the best roller coaster ride in town." But it is not for those of nervous disposition.

The LTOM deals in options taken out on UK equities (dealing with around 60 companies) and gilts. It also deals in options taken out on currency and stock indices, like the FTSE-100. Known in the trade as the Footsie - where our mystery investor made his millions.

Investors in the market deal in "contracts," and a contract normally represents an option on 1,000 shares. A traded option has a maximum lifespan of nine months, with expiry dates fixed at three-



monthly intervals. Because the price of options in this market fluctuates as the share price changes they are a very highly geared investment. So that, say, a 20 per cent rise in the share price can raise the value of your option by several hundred per cent.

For example, options in the Trust House Forte 260 March call (meaning you take an option to buy at 260p) were selling at a premium of 9p last December, when the stock was at 252p. Last Thursday you could have sold the option for a premium of 24p. The value of the option thus went up 155 per cent,

while in the same period the share price rose by 12.6 per cent. The problem is that the reverse is also true, so you could make a substantial loss if your view of the market is wrong.

This is very different from investing in the traditional stock market, where, if you can at least hang on and hope the share price will eventually go up again. With traded options there is no such choice, because you are bound by a time limit.

The biggest losses of all can be made by those who "write" or in other words underwrite the original

option, because they must buy or sell the underlying security if called upon to do so. For a private investor to become a writer is, says the LTOM, "extremely hazardous."

Mr Donald Cornelius, of stockbroker James Capel's traded options department, says that those who invest heavily in the traded options market are not and not gamblers. "It is rather like taking a bet on an outsider in the Grand National," he says. "Most probably you will lose. However, if all the other horses fall at Becher's Brook, you could be very rich indeed."

If you can afford it, a flutter on the

Footsie can be fun, say the experts, but our mystery millionaire would do well to quit while he is ahead.

However, with good advice from your stockbroker traded options can be a useful market. "We would not advise anyone to invest more than 5 per cent, or 10 per cent of their investment portfolio at most, in the traded options market," says Mr James Butler, the traded options specialist at Sheppards, the broker.

However, by paying careful attention to investment strategy you can, he points out, use it to back up your existing shareholding. With good advice you can also invest a fraction of your capital and make as much as if you had invested the whole lot in conventional shares.

Traded options can also be used as a sort of insurance policy for your investment portfolio. This could be done by "hedging" - by taking a put option, so you gain on the roundabout what you lose on the swings.

If you want to play the traded options market the Stock Exchange wisely requires that you first sign a form signifying that you understand what it is all about, and the risks involved. The LTOM issues a range of booklets to help you.

After that, all you need is a good broker who specializes in the options (the LTOM issues a list) and strong nerves.

Further information can be obtained from The London Traded Options Market, The International Stock Exchange, London EC2 1HP.

A booklet on *Traded Options Investment Strategy* is available from Sheppards, 1, London Bridge, London SE1 9QU, while Citycall operate a traded options tip service (0898 121285) and a strategy line (0898 121280). Calls are charged at a premium rate.



Traditional: a nursery for children of London NHS workers

## Luncheon vouchers can be child's play

Child care vouchers are being studied by British companies as an attractive alternative to workplace nurseries in their bid to recruit women.

Miss Sue Harvey, sales and marketing director of Luncheon Vouchers, said many companies are planning to introduce the vouchers, which can be exchanged for cash, because they are exempt from national insurance contributions.

By contrast, workplace nurseries are treated as a perk. Since 1984 employees making use of nurseries have had to pay tax on employers' contributions, as well as paying their own share out of taxed income. Employees are only exempt if they earn less than £8,500 a year.

The voucher scheme will give working mothers the freedom to choose a child-minder instead of being forced to take their children to a workplace nursery or leave them at home. They will be able to offer the voucher to their child-minder who will be able to exchange it for cash.

Miss Harvey is hoping to meet Government officials at the Department of Social Security to ensure that a contributory scheme, whereby the company would pay 60 per cent of the costs to the employee's 40 per cent, would not attract national insurance payments.

A September launch is planned for the scheme. Several high street retailers and banks have expressed interest. Blue Arrow Personnel Ser-

vices is the first British company to publicly consider introducing the vouchers.

Miss Harvey believes the child care voucher scheme will be particularly useful in working mothers who use relatives to look after their children. A report by the European Commission, *Caring for Children '88*, showed that 47 per cent of British working mothers use relatives as child-minders.

Miss Harvey has been researching into the three-year-old child care voucher scheme operated by Voucher Corporation, Accor's American subsidiary.

She said the "work/family juggling act" is a major cause of stress to women. "Child care breakdown" - the unexpected collapse of a family's usual child care arrangement due to the illness of a minder - is significantly added to the stress of working parents.

Miss Harvey said: "Employers can reduce this stress by supporting the child care needs of their employees by instituting various flexible personnel policies, often with an increase in direct benefit expenses."

These include flexitime, sick child care leave, part time schedules, job sharing, extended maternity and paternity benefits, and work-at-home plans. However, the voucher programme proved the most popular by giving parents full responsibility for choosing their own child care provider.

**Roland Rudd**  
Employment Affairs Reporter

## Commissions for independent advisers to increase in May

Commissions paid to independent financial advisers are set to rise in May, ahead of the target date for abandoning a maximum commissions agreement following proposals made this week by the Securities and Investments Board.

Mr Richard Cockcroft, director of practice and development at Fimbra, estimates that commissions could rise by 10 per cent, and welcomed any chance for these indepen-

dent advisers to negotiate their commissions more freely. Tied agents are being offered up to 130 per cent of the rates offered to the independents.

"With Fimbra commission accounting for £1 billion, a 10 per cent increase puts a substantial amount into the sector," he said.

But the Financial Advisers' Association said the proposals were "a seriously retrograde step," and would prejudice the out-

come of consultations still taking place on the regime that is to apply from January 1 1990.

SIB proposes that in the interim period before January, the system of disclosure should be loosened. Thus companies would only have to abandon "soft" disclosure, which tells the client that commissions are in line with the industry guidelines on those products where this applies rather than across the

board if just one product exceeds these guidelines.

The unit trust or life office issuing the product would tell the client the percentage of the investment or premium that will be paid as commission.

Mr Jane Vass, head of the Consumers' Association Which? Money Group, said: "We see no possible justification for reducing requirements for hard disclosure in cash terms applying to those independent intermediaries

receiving commissions in excess of the maximum commissions agreement."

"If consumers are to be protected from unrestrained bidding up of commissions, disclosure must be at point of sale and in cash terms."

Under the proposals for the final scheme, company salesmen would not have to disclose any information about commissions or expenses, but would merely have to state that they are tied agents. SIB

says that many comments on the original proposals argued that the status declarations should be made even sharper, and this is under consideration.

It might, for instance, force company representatives to reveal not only that they represent one company, but also state that they are not in a position to give independent advice.

**Vivien Goldsmith**

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MS. E. PATTERSON, Northumberland.

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MR. J. SANDERSON, Bristol.

"When I retire, I'm going to buy a taverna on a Greek island and serve soggy chips to people."  
MR. S. WESTACOTT, Croydon.

"Lie on a boat somewhere and become a better musician!"  
MR. A. HADFIELD, Manchester.

"I'm glad I've done it. You can sleep at nights."  
MR. S. WEBB, Harrington.

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MS. S. BURROWS, North Shields.

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## When you leave a job how can you stop your pension freezing?

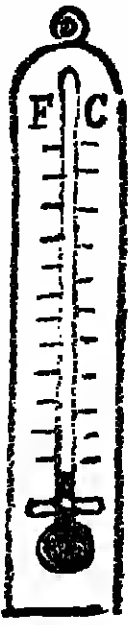
Leaving your job, perhaps to move to a new employer, can often bring instant financial gain. So it's natural in the circumstances to overlook the hard-earned money paid into your previous company's pension scheme.

But think, if you leave behind a deferred or frozen pension your benefits might suffer from more than a little frostbite by the time you retire.

Also, keeping your old company in touch with your changes of address and making sure you receive regular information about your pension can be a real headache, especially if you've had more than one employer.

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The Plan lets you draw out your pension by placing the transfer value of your fund with The Equitable, who then provide the pension benefits - benefits which, in many cases, could be more attractive than your deferred or frozen scheme.



Undoubtedly, you will want to choose a company with a first class record of investment performance - The Equitable's achievement in the area of personal pensions is remarkable.

In surveys carried out by Planned Savings magazine over the last 5 years for single contribution with profits personal pension plans, only Equitable Life has appeared in every one of the 15 tables showing the top ten performing contracts over 5, 10 and 20 year terms. No other company approaches this record.

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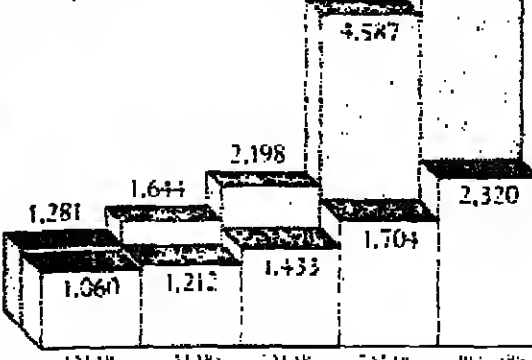
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## FAMILY MONEY

# Go offshore before March 14

Dorothy Lawson has a timely look at

pre-Budget planning

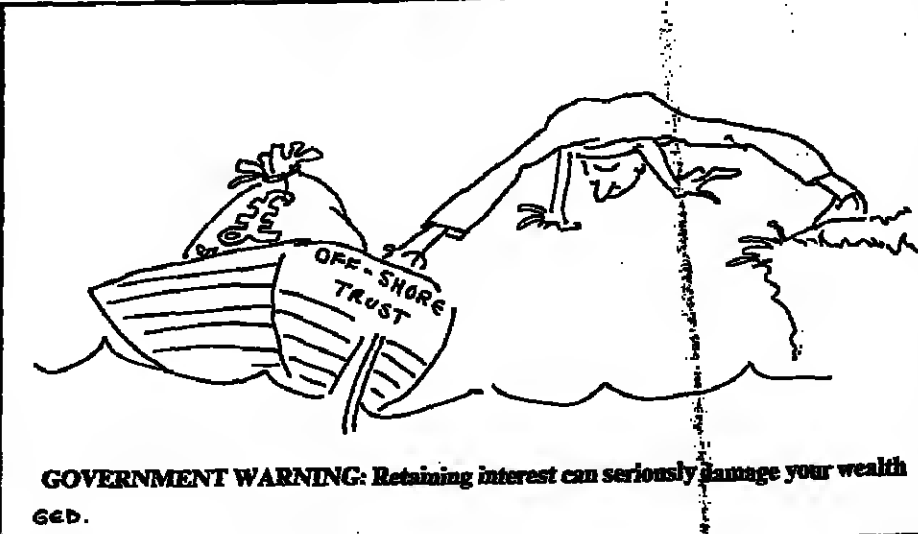
The buzz word this year on pre-Budget planning is "off-shore." Accountants are counselling their wealthier clients to look at non-resident or offshore trusts before March 14.

They are advising clients to convert existing trusts into offshore trusts by changing the trustees.

The professional advisers' strategy is based on the assumption that arrangements in place by Budget day should not be affected by any new anti-avoidance rules. The trouble is that Mr Nigel Lawson does not always play the game according to the professionals' rules. The anti-avoidance rules on British trusts which are introduced in last year's Finance Act were fully retrospective.

Under present rules, trusts which are resident in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man are regarded as not being resident in this country. Such trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. A tax charge may arise for beneficiaries resident in Britain, but this applies only when the trustees make capital payments to the beneficiaries and thus there can be a deferral of capital gains tax on an indefinite basis.

Where a trust resident in Britain is concerned, the key question is whether the person who created it (the settlor) retained an interest. If he did,



GOVERNMENT WARNING: Retaining interest can seriously damage your wealth

the trustees may have to pay tax on their gains at the top rate of 40 per cent. This rule, which was introduced after the publication of the original Finance Bill, applies to all gains realized after April 5, 1988. Furthermore - and this is particularly significant - it applies to all trusts where the settlor has retained an interest, regardless of whether they were set up before or after the law was changed.

Nevertheless, there are steps which wealthy individuals could adopt and which stand a reasonable chance of succeeding. The selection of the appropriate strategy depends on working out in greater depth what type of anti-avoidance rules are likely to be introduced in the Budget. Unfortunately, I have no inside knowledge (despite my surname), but the main op-

tions for Mr Lawson would appear to be as follows:

• Channel Islands: To be brought into UK "net"? There would be big constitutional problems in extending the British tax legislation to cover residents of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Doing this is probably unthinkable for a Conservative Government.

On the other hand, there are precedents for treating trusts which become resident in the Channel Islands in future as if they were still resident in Britain for CGT purposes. One might find that tax assessed on the trust could be collected from the settlor if the trustees refused to apply. This has also been done in the past. • Expert charge. At the moment, there is no general principle that a disposal is deemed to take place when an

existing trust is "exported."

This type of "exit" charge was introduced last year for companies (which cease to be resident in Britain and a similar charge for trusts would seem to be logical. If things stop here, the pre-Budget scramble will have succeeded. In practice, this is unlikely to be the end of the story.

• Tax charge for beneficiaries. As a matter of fact, this would not be completely new. Between 1965 and 1981, the legislation enabled the Inland Revenue to charge beneficiaries resident in Britain the tax on gains realized by non-resident trustees.

The legislation gave the Revenue power to "apportion" the trust gains among the beneficiaries. Re-introducing this rule would scupper the best laid plans of solicitors and accountants, but it is

unlikely. The law was changed in 1981 because it was found to be unworkable. It was manifestly ridiculous when the House of Lords ruled in *Leedale v Lewis* that the beneficiary could be charged tax on capital gains that he might never receive.

• Tax charge on settlors who retain an interest. The most likely outcome is that the rule on trusts resident in Britain will simply be extended to cover offshore trusts. This would also mean that the CGT legislation would be brought into line with the income tax rules. The result would be that a settlor who retained an interest could be charged tax on the trustees' gains, whether or not they are distributed to him. Other beneficiaries of the trust would still be chargeable.

The above treatment broadly corresponds to what happens for income tax purposes. A person who makes a transfer of assets may be assessed as income arises overseas and so can a spouse. Other people who might benefit ("non-transferees") are charged tax only as and when they actually receive benefits. Some advisers believe that the advantages of offshore trusts will last for a long time yet.

One specialist admitted that the biggest worry among professionals is the introduction of anti-avoidance legislation aimed at settlors who retain an interest. A lot will depend upon the precise wording of any such legislation. However, he believes that it might be possible to avoid the full impact of such legislation by re-exporting the trusts.

## Disconnections of water in Bath

From the chairman of Wessex Water

Sir, Maggie Drummond, ("A dusty answer for those unable to pay," Family Money, February 18) quotes a manager of the Bath Citizens' Advice Bureau as encountering "horrible cases" of disconnection in the Bath area.

I have investigated all cases of disconnection in that water area and found that the full disconnection procedure was followed; negotiations took well over a year; there was full consultation with appropriate organizations such as social services, and a county court order was obtained.

Disconnection procedures were fully supported by the

### LETTERS

Independent Customer Consultative Committee covering the Bath area, which includes a representative of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

All those disconnected have a charge below £100 per year and Wessex offers monthly payments; a payment of £8 per month can hardly be described as "dauntingly large."

Wessex appreciates many council house tenants will be seeing a separate water bill for the first time in their lives; we take particular care to inform people of all payment options available.

But arrangements for water authorities to take back collection of charges from local authorities are nothing to do with privatization.

We have 980,000 customer accounts, and disconnected just 32 domestic customers for non-payment in the four years 1984 to 1988.

The water authorities sup-

port the Government's code of practice which goes further than any other utility commitment to standards of service for customers and is yet another reason to support the privatization of the water authorities.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS HOOD,  
Chairman of Wessex Water,  
Wessex House,  
Passage Street,  
Bristol.

• The Water Authorities Association points out: Disconnections were 6,813 in 1981-2 not 1,171, making recent increases a rise from 0.05 per cent to 0.07 per cent.

"The reasons for the increase in disconnections are perfectly clear. Water Authorities cannot justify to their customers excessive delay in obtaining payments from those who can afford to pay, but have paid little or nothing for this essential service for in some cases three or five years."

## Means testing of pensions

From Mrs Ruth Solomon

Sir, We are retired teachers, and my husband was looking forward to receiving his state pension this month.

He was given a forecast of the amount he should receive, which was swiftly followed by a notification that we shall be paying more tax once his pension is in operation.

Just before Christmas we were notified that his pension will be quite a bit lower than forecast, because of my teacher's occupational pension. I contributed towards this, and it is taxed before I get it.

We can apparently appeal against this bombshell, but it seems the decision was made by an "adjudicator" - about whom we knew nothing. Means testing of pensions was supposed to be under consideration, but it appears to be already in operation. Is this the case?

Yours faithfully,  
Ruth Solomon,  
Hartington Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex.

I am at a loss to know why your husband's state pension (presumably his retirement pension) has suddenly been reduced and I can only suppose that he has somehow become entangled in the so-called "earnings" rule.

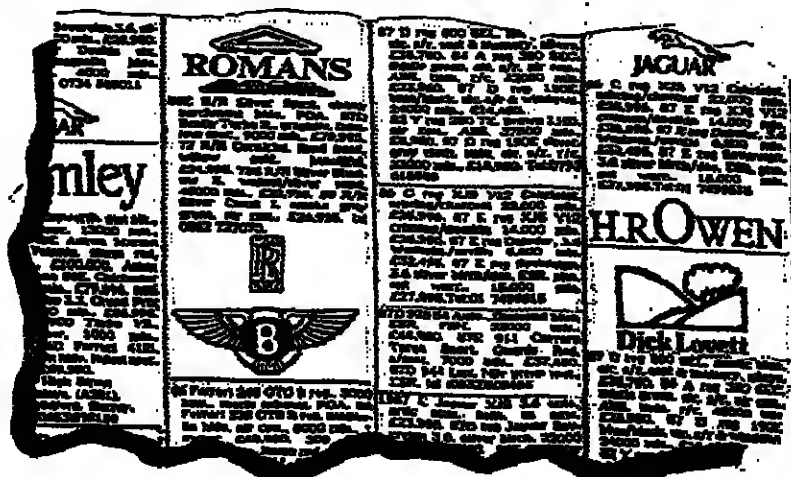
This applies where a pensioner's earnings from continuing employment (part or whole-time) exceed £75 in one week. But I can see no justification for applying this restriction to your own pension and I wonder if there has been a misunderstanding by the adjudicator: does he believe your pension is earnings from your continuing to work?

I suggest you write to whoever is concerned with dealing with appeals, explaining what your own and your husband's sources of income are and asking for an explanation or confirmation that your husband's pension will be paid without this restriction.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Softer approach to mortgage arrears

By Hugh Thompson

Next week Town & Country Building Society will issue a new leaflet, called *Help With Your Mortgage*.

The leaflet represents a significant softening of the society's attitude. Miss Karin Maker, customer liaison officer, says: "In the past we have been particularly hard on people who fall behind in their payments."

"Now we are pointing out to those who go into arrears that there are a variety of options

open to them. These include interest-only payments, extending the life of the mortgage to 40 years, and paying back arrears on a monthly basis. We are anxious to show that we are a more caring society to those who have genuine reasons, such as sickness or redundancy, for going into arrears."

The move is another indication of building societies' changing attitudes to mortgage arrears — a change which

has contributed to the number of repossessions falling dramatically.

Figures released this week by the Building Society Association show that there were 6,380 repossessions in the second half of 1988 — 37 per cent down on the first half of 1988 and 43 per cent down on the same period in 1987. But although arrears over six months also showed a significant decline, shorter term arrears were up.

Charles Jackson on the charge that has caused controversy in the community

## Love it or loathe it, few will escape the poll tax

The poll tax, or community charge as the Government would have us call it, is coming. There is considerable opposition to the charge by both members of the public and local government officials, some of whom have argued in favour of refusing to co-operate with collection.

However, several experts and politicians have counselled against taking this illegal course.

Scotland will be hit first, with England not facing the charge until 1990. But what does it all mean?

The 1988 Local Government Finance Act contains a number of provisions to reform the present system of local government finance. In particular, it states that domestic rates will be replaced with a locally determined flat-rate community charge, payable by almost all adults. The charge will take three forms:

- Personal community charge
- Standard community charge
- Collective community charge

Charges will be levied by the authorities on all persons, others than those classified as exempt. A register will be compiled and maintained by each local Community Charge Registration Officer.

Taking the three types of charge in order, the first is the Personal Community Charge. This will be paid by Mr, Mrs and Miss Average — in other words, any person aged 18 or more who is solely or mainly resident in the area of a charging authority.

People of opposite sexes married or cohabiting as husband and wife will be jointly and severally liable — that is, although each will be billed separately, if one defaults the other will be expected to pay both bills. However, parents with adult children who default will not be expected to pay for them.

Students will be treated on a

slightly different basis. They will have to pay the full charge during holidays, for example, but on those days in which they are attending a full-time course of education they will only be required to pay a fifth of the charge.

The charge in both cases will be that levied in the area of their term-time address.

Standard Community Charge This will be levied against the owner, or — if let on a lease of more than six months, the leaseholder — of a house which is not the sole or main residence of any person.

This would, for example, include those who have a second home.

This charge can be a fraction of the personal community charge, or up to twice as much. The level will be decided by each charging authority.

Collective Community Charge This will be levied against landlords of those properties in which people stay as their main residence for short periods, and where it will be difficult to collect individual personal community charges.

People living in the property will pay contributions towards the collective charge at a daily rate.

Landlords will be required to keep records of short-stay residents showing the length of residence and the amount that they have paid towards the total charge.

Landlords will be allowed to keep 5 per cent of the total collected, as a collection fee.

Certain categories of people may be exempt from either the personal community charge or from their liability for contributions towards the collective charge.

These are the severely mentally impaired; those solely or mainly resident in hospitals; those solely or mainly resident in residential care homes; those serving prison sentences or held on remand; those for whom child benefit is payable — that is, children under 19 and still at school; volunteer

care workers; the homeless; members of religious communities who are wholly supported by the communities; diplomats and members of international headquarters; and visiting servicemen.

People with severe mental impairments are unlikely to be able to vote and therefore will not be subject to the charge.

However, people with physical disabilities may qualify for a rebate called the community charge benefit, which will be available to those on low incomes.

Since everything is calculated on a daily basis, it is possible for a person to be exempt one day and not the next.

It will be up to each individual to advise the local Community Charge Registration Officer of any change in their circumstances.

The new rebate system may be available to people on low incomes who are liable either for the personal community charge or for contributions payable to a landlord for collective community charge purposes.

The CCB will not be available to those paying standard community charge, or students who are already registered as being liable to pay only 20 per cent of the charge.

CCB can only be awarded if it is claimed. A person is entitled to claim during the 13 weeks prior to which he believes liability is about to start, or in anticipation of a change to circumstances. However, where people are

already claiming Housing Benefit, good practice suggests the authority should write to claimants enclosing a claim form three months before the charge comes into effect.

Similarly, the Department of Social Security should contact all Income Support claimants using them of their right to claim CCB.

Where both partners in a couple are liable for the personal community charge, they will have separate accounts, will receive separate demand notices, if entitled to CCB, will receive a separate rebate.

How, one partner must claim on behalf of both. Where one is unable to act on her own behalf, then it is in order for someone else to make the claim on their behalf.

Where a claimant is already receiving Benefit or Income Support, local authorities will simply award a full 80 per cent CCB without any need for further calculations (except, everybody has a minimum of 20 per cent of their community charge liability).

In all cases the local authority will make its own assessment of the claimant's resources.

The rebate will be similar to that employed for Housing Benefit calculations. In brief, it means that where the claimant's capital holdings exceed an amount — likely to be £100 or £2,000 — they will be entitled to CCB.

Otherwise the authority will come to a decision on the claimant's needs or ability to pay.

Where a partner in a couple is not income assessed and cannot be assessed and combined with the applicable for the couple, a joint entitlement to the rebate will then be divided between them.

## Pip of an idea for discipline in saving

The gentle drip, drip, drip of a savings scheme is just the sort of cautious investment approach suited to these uncertain times.

But Dunbar Boyle & Kingsley, the broker, realised that brokers and their clients were missing out on the discipline of regular investments, and the benefits of pound-cost averaging. So it has started its own scheme, the Phased Investment Programme — Pip for short — which invests directly in blue chip equities rather than unit or investment trusts.

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Clients can over-ride the programme if they object to any of the proposed purchases, and substitute their own choice.

Among the schemes which feed into unit trusts are Mercury's Capital Investment Plan, where a minimum of £1,000 is placed in a building society account and fed into a Mercury unit trust over two years through a savings plan. Garmore also has a drip-feed scheme, called the Capital Development Plan.

Garmore makes a 3 per cent administration charge, deducted at the outset, then the remaining sum earns money-market rates. A twelfth of it is invested in a Garmore unit trust each month for a year, and at the end of the year there is a loyalty bonus of 1 per cent.

While Mercury takes 2.5 per cent of the total sum out of the first investment, and then makes a 2 per cent initial charge rather than the usual 5 per cent, there is also a 1 per cent loyalty bonus at the end of the two years plus extra investment from the interest built up in the society account.

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## FAMILY MONEY

# Snowed under by skiing mishaps

As the slopes grow ever more crowded, so the chance of accidents increases.

Hugh Thompson tells a cautionary tale

This time last year, Miss Linda Tillman and Miss Anne Stainton, from Chiswick, London, went skiing at Bages, in the French Pyrenees. It will be a long time before they go skiing again.

On the second day of their holiday, the two experienced skiers, Miss Tillman, a pharmacist, was a veteran of seven years on the slopes — decided to go up on the long Coubers Lift.

"It was one of those chairs with a footrest and a safety bar," Miss Tillman says. "Unlike other ski lifts, there were not only wires above the chair, but between the pylons to the right. It was a very windy day, which made both the chair and the wire swing from side to side."

The wire caught the footrest and started to pull the chair into the line of the pylons. "We tried to free the chair with our sticks, but it was too tight," Miss Tillman says.

"After a while, the chair stopped. Everyone was screaming and we thought 'Should we jump?' But since we were about 30 feet off the ground we thought it would be better to wait for help."

Then the chair started moving again. Mr Derek Ferguson, who was in the chair behind the two women, says: "It was like a slow-motion Hitchcock horror film as the ladies were dragged towards the pylon."

The force exerted by the cable on the footrest caused the footrest to bend their seat and the safety bar to

crush their legs. "Linda's leg seemed to be pulled behind the seat as her ski tip hit the pylon. It looked as if her leg was being pulled off," Mr Ferguson says.

Miss Tillman continues: "There seemed no question of what was going to happen. We were either going to be chopped in half, thrown 30 feet to the ground, or electrocuted. The only thing one didn't know was which would happen first."

Help arrived, but did not know what to do. More help arrived — without the essential cutters which would free the women. In the end they spent an hour-and-a-half in their twisted ski chair.

Eventually they were cut down and helicoptered to hospital. Before they left the resort, the Commune of Bages wrote expressing its regret at the accident, and offered them a free holiday the following year.

When the pair returned to England they approached their travel insurance company to make a claim. But the company's insurance only covered damages for the cost of medical treatment in France, not for the cost of medical treatment in the UK.

They were put in touch with Mr Paul Maxlow-Tomlinson, of solicitors in Exeter, Devon, but it is likely to be another six months — 18 months in the growing field of ski compensation — before the money is received.

He says: "Two years ago there were hardly any claims made by British skiers."



Still suffering: Linda Tillman's right leg was badly injured in a skiing accident last year

hazardous business is that in France the winner does not have his costs paid by the loser. The costs, of course, include the expense of hiring lawyers in both countries.

In addition, the French courts accept medical evidence only from accredited French doctors. This meant that the girls had to travel to France to be examined.

It took Miss Tillman nine months to recover from her injuries, and her right leg is still weaker than the left. The accident also left a long indented area on her thigh. "For nearly two hours I was tortured," she says. "I feel that I should be given at least enough so that I can go away and have a good holiday."

Mr Maxlow-Tomlinson

says: "Damages are calculated on a three-point scale: temporary incapacity, permanent injury and suffering and permanent incapacity."

"Most ski claims are made after collisions where any 'bad' skiing can make someone liable, and because of faulty equipment."

Gone are the days when people accepted legs broken on the slopes as just one of those things. Such has been the rise in claims as a result of skiing accidents that FIS, the international body, has published a code of conduct.

In future, those who break the code and cause an accident may well hear from Mr Maxlow-Tomlinson or one of his brothers and sisters in law.

### SAFETY FIRST

The FIS Code of Conduct for skiers states that, like all other sports, skiing is risky and carries certain civil and penal responsibilities, such as:

- Respect for others: A skier must behave in such a way that he does not endanger or prejudice others.
- Control of speed and skiing: A skier must adapt his speed and way of skiing to his personal ability and to prevailing conditions of terrain and weather.
- Control of direction: A skier coming from above, whose dominant position allows him a choice of path, must take a direction that assures the safety of the skier below.
- Overtaking: It is permitted to overtake another skier going down or up to the right or left, but always leaving a wide enough margin for the overtaken skier to make his turns.
- Duties of a skier crossing the course: A skier wishing to enter a course or passing a training ground must look up and down to make sure he can do so without danger to himself or others.
- Stopping on the course: If it is not absolutely necessary a skier must avoid stopping on the course, especially in narrow passages or where visibility is restricted. In case of a fall a skier must leave the course free as soon as possible.
- Climbing: A climbing skier must keep to the side of the course and in bad visibility keep off the course entirely. The same goes for a skier who descends on foot.
- There is a duty to offer assistance at accidents.
- Everybody at the scene of an accident, whether responsible or not, must establish his identity.

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## Spitfire BES to focus



Spitfire Television is injecting a little glamour into the sea of Business Expansion Schemes being launched before the Budget (Hilary Doting writes).

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£1 million if the company relaxes the rules in getting. The company is a venture but an excellent company turning to finance future development.

Spitfire provides a post-productive facilities for television

and independent producers. Mr Stefan Sargent, the chairman (above), believes that the volume of new programming required by television and the latest satellite services will treble by the 1990s. It made profits of £293,000 in the year to end October and expects £653,000 by 1991.

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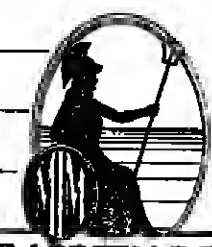
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## PART II

# G A -the muse of

New York's first sight of nervous little Spaniard scared he returned in 1940, he was

New York in 1934 was ready for someone like Dali. The newspapers were filled with European madness of a more sinister kind: Hitler's continued rise to power in Germany. Now there was Dali, a harmless eccentric, steaming past the Statue of Liberty like an intellectual travelling salesman, his case stuffed with soft watches.

The first sight of Dali revealed a nervous little Spaniard with an 8ft French loaf under his arm, and at least a dozen paintings attached to himself with string. Dali was afraid of thieves. New York, he had heard, was a rough place. What caught the newsmen's attention was a realistic portrait of Gala with a pork chop on each shoulder like a general's epaulettes.

A great debate arose over the pork chops on Gala's shoulders. Were they raw or cooked? In his discourse to the gaping journalists, Dali explained that they represented his misplaced desire to cannibalize Gala. Flashbulbs popped and the newsmen rushed off to Manhattan to report on the mad artist with the moustache and his inedible companion.

From that moment on, it became impossible to see Gala for the pork chops. Although Dali exhibited all the subtlety of a three-ring circus, Gala was his opposite in that respect. In public, she was his product. Gala was as much of his art as the limp watches and the crutches. In private she nagged and dominated him, dressed him and practically tied his shoelaces. She handled business, set the prices and eagerly counted the money.

Gala was his critic, too. She understood his art and would argue over the theme and content of a painting. Sometimes Dali listened, but just as often he grew angry and stubbornly resisted her suggestions, arguing that it was he, after all, who was the artist. When this happened, Gala invariably stormed from the studio. Their quarrels usually ended several hours later, according to one witness, Catalina Romans, with Dali shouting out "Olive" - he called her that - "come and give me a hug." And she would, too. A hug for her Dali... her pet name for him.

Gala gave her past over to Dali; she became his fiction, his secret. Anyone who dared pry into any aspect of her private life was slapped down with a curt "none of your business". Her secrecy was calculated to enhance their surrealist mystique. As Dali once explained cryptically: "Gala had the secret of remaining within my secret. Often people thought they had discovered my secret, but this was impossible, because it was not my secret but Gala's."

If Gala was not an exhibitionist, there was, however, one time during their first visit to New York when she unwittingly found herself at the centre of a furious scandal. On their last night in America, Caresse Crosby, the

and all Gala to do was set the price tag. Tim McGirk describes the best - and worst - years



widow of an American banker, who had helped persuade them to come to America, threw a firework party, the first surrealist ball held in America.

The guests were a potent mixture of art gallery owners and high-society people, who took a crash course in surrealism. The socialites were fast learners. The macabre costumes they dreamed up for this fancy-dress ball astonished even Dali. Respectable society women turned up at the Coq Rouge restaurant wearing birdcages around their heads and little else. The carcass of a cow hung from the ceiling stuffed with record players.

By comparison to the nuttish creations of the New York belles, Gala's and Dali's costumes seemed downright prudish. He went with a glass chest attached to his midriff containing a woman's brassiere. As for Gala, Dali dressed her as an "Exquisite Corpse", from the surrealist parlor game of the same name. On her head was perched a doll, crawling with ants, whose head was being squeezed by a phosphorescent lobster.

It seemed uncontroversial enough, but at the time New York was reeling from the trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnap and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby. A French journalist in New York, scraping for a story, suggested that Gala's baby resembled the Lindbergh's dead child, and

that, although a dash of artistic scandal never hurt, this was just the kind of sordid Press attention that could instantly kill Dali's rapid success in America.

Their first visit to the US lasted only a few weeks, but Dali and Gala had earned more publicity and more money than was possible in Paris. Gala adopted the habit of demanding to be paid either in cash - dollars preferably - or with a money order. Too many cheques in the past had bounced; too many dealers had gone bust.

Later, Gala learnt a trick over the telephone, once a line was installed at Port Lligat, their home in Spain. She would agree verbally to a price in pesetas and then pretend that she had made the deal in dollars.

Long after he and Gala sailed back across the Atlantic, the American public would continue to hear about Dali. *Time* magazine chose Dali for its cover story on surrealism. His paintings soared in value. It became the risqué fad among very rich Americans to have their portrait done by Dali, even if the results were shocking.

On a brief return to Spain in January 1934, the couple were married in a civil ceremony. The reasons for the marriage were more practical than emotional. Under Spanish law, Gala stood to lose all of Dali's wealth - and much of her own - if he died or went insane.

They were soon back in America, and Dali landed himself on the front pages again, by being arrested. The large New York department store, Bonwit Teller, had commissioned him to design two window displays. Dali and Gala had worked through the night, lining an old bathtub with black lambswool, filling it with water and floating a few arms holding mirrors in the mess.

They strolled down Fifth Avenue the next afternoon, curious about New Yorkers' reactions. It seems the store had so many complaints from window-shoppers that Dali's artwork was censored in his absence. A robe was draped around the mannequin stepping into the tub. Dali was enraged. He stormed into the window display, knocking the tub through the window and, somehow, the next moment stepped out on to the pavement between sheets of falling glass.

A passing detective immediately arrested him on a charge of malicious mischief. The night-court judge, however, more accustomed to gangsters and thieves, suspended Dali's sentence because, he opined: "These are some of the privileges that an artist with temperament seems to enjoy."

In 1939 the couple returned to live in Arcachon, a *fin de siècle* resort much in vogue with Pa-



Birds of a feather: at Port Lligat, Gala would agree to a price in pesetas over the phone, and then pretend that she had made the deal in dollars

risian writers and actors. Dali painted demonically, immersing himself in the alchemy of amber, oils, paint and varnish as if he were seeking some chemical combination that could transform the madness of Europe's war, and its invasion of his own psyche, more exactly on to canvas.

Picasso's Guernica and horses and people were splintered in agony; Dali's response was intellectual. He saw the war as a tradition trying to reassert itself against the "deficiencies, nothingnesses and revolutions of our sceptical, formless epoch". As he painted, Gala read him books on science, philosophy, metaphysics, architecture - anything that could give him a vision of the world that lay beyond the darkness of war.

The Dalis renewed their friendship with the artist Marcel Duchamp and the fashion designer Coco Chanel. For an artist, Dali was rich, but that did not stop Gala from badgering Chanel to give her gowns at bargain prices or, preferably, for nothing. Gala would wear these creations until they disintegrated, 20 years later. As the war got closer, Dali persuaded Gala to return to Paris to secure the paintings left behind in their flat, before they fled to America. There was no question of Dali going himself. If recognized, he would be immediately arrested by the Gestapo.

Continued overleaf



Images of Gala: Dali often wrote that he found her a sexual and desirable woman, but he found it impossible to paint this aspect of her nature



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Gala realized that every scrap of paper on which Dalí signed his name was worth something

...the Bonwit Teller scandal. Other painters of the surrealist movement might have been more acclaimed — René Magritte or Max Ernst, for example — but Dalí happily waxed his moustache, twirled his cane and became surrealism personified. All Gala could do was to maintain this bubble. Dalí's self-out was also due to Gala's avarice. Her fear of poverty drove away whatever qualms Dalí may have had about turning out rubbish. She pushed him hard, the way a mother would with a lazy son. Friends say that as soon as Gala left his studio Dalí would drop his palette and brushes with relief then, when he heard her over his outfit, he finally selected a shimmering satin suit which he wore with a starched shirt and tie. Garbo came late as usual, wearing men's chinos and tennis shoes. She took one look at Dalí and said: "One of us has got this wrong. Why don't we try again?" She kissed Dalí full on the lips and departed without another word. Dalí was speechless; he hated being kissed on the mouth, even by Garbo. They never met again. From the mid-1940s onwards Gala seems to have become convinced that everyone — even her family — was grasping for a piece of Dalí's hard-earned fortune, and that she had to fight them off.

The people who were probably Gala and Dalí's closest friends through the years were Reynolds Morse, a plain-talking Coloradan from a rich mine-owning family, and his wife Eleanor. In 1942 they wandered into a Manhattan gallery, and saw a small canvas that intrigued them. Gala, however, shocked Morse. As he explained: "She invited me up to their room. Dalí wasn't around. Gala brought out some of Dalí's erotic drawings and then said something like: 'There's more where that came from.' And then she propositioned me. I said 'No' as politely as I could. Gala wasn't my type. Besides, I'd just gotten married to Eleanor and Gala was old enough to be my mother. Thank God she wasn't, though."

When Gala and Dalí both grew old and sick, Morse cared for them and found them hospitals and good doctors. The Moreses, however, found Gala and Dalí to be companions who were charming, but who never once dropped their guard over more than four decades. Reynolds Morse commented: "We tried to be friends but they always treated us as clients, as pigeons to be plucked."

By the late 1940s, with the couple back in Spain, Dalí's artistic reputation was sliding. Abstract art was what the galleries were clamouring for now. And, of course, there was the bomb. For Dalí, his paranoiac-critical method and the theories of the subconscious he had ransacked from Freud were melted away by Hiroshima's heat. Dalí was searching for unity, something that could bear witness to the universe that lay beyond the shattered atom. That something was religion.

Slowly Dalí's mysticism took form, and the shape it assumed over his outfit, he finally selected a shimmering satin suit which he wore with a starched shirt and tie. Garbo came late as usual, wearing men's chinos and tennis shoes. She took one look at Dalí and said: "One of us has got this wrong. Why don't we try again?" She kissed Dalí full on the lips and departed without another word. Dalí was speechless; he hated being kissed on the mouth, even by Garbo. They never met again. From the mid-1940s onwards Gala seems to have become convinced that everyone — even her family — was grasping for a piece of Dalí's hard-earned fortune, and that she had to fight them off.

It took Dalí a good three years after falling in love with Gala to feature her prominently on canvas. It was not until 1933, with "Gala and the Angelus of Millet Preceding the Imminent Arrival of the Conic Anamorphoses", that Gala was awarded more than a walk-on part. Here she is disturbing and certainly not attractive.

Then, in 1935, "Portrait of Gala" showed her looking as dumpy and severe as the peasant woman in the painting of Millet's "Angelus" which hangs above her. To his erotic writings Dalí would have us believe that he found Gala to be a sexual, desirable woman, but he could not paint this aspect of her nature, at least not by showing her face. His most erotic portrait of Gala is a nude study of her back. She sits with her legs crossed as if she were waiting on a rumpled bed for another session with her lover.

Port Lligat was not New York or Paris; the number of beautiful subjects that Dalí and Gala could lure into their separate webs was much reduced. They needed a go-between. Oddly enough, they were to locate such a person — part procurer, press agent and fixer — in the Vatican. In November 1949, Dalí had finished "The Madonna of Port Lligat" and wanted it blessed by the Pope. Dalí was approached by an elegant and charming Irishman, John Peter Moore, who was working for the Vatican's propaganda department. Within 24 hours, Moore had arranged a private interview with Pope Pius XII. The pontiff was reportedly impressed by "The Madonna of Port Lligat".

The Dalís eventually took Moore on as "military attaché". His brisk efficiency, his gift for languages and his canny art of serving Dalí and Gala's wildest caprices made him indispensable. He also brought order to their chaotic finances. Gala was a compulsive hoarder; her purse would be bursting with cheques for several thousand dollars which she could never bring herself to deposit. Moore's formal service with the Dalís began in the early 1960s, but he had been running errands for them for many years before. It was only in the 1960s that Moore was allowed to earn commissions on Dalí's graphic work, but eventually he was to make millions from Dalí. If Dalí wanted a rhinoceros horn or a diving suit or a model willing to coat herself in chocolate, Moore would somehow provide. If Gala wanted the company of a young boy who spoke Russian, a blond or Mediterranean type who looked like Dalí in his youth, then Moore would make the necessary introductions.

Gala had another expensive vice — gambling. In the mid-1960s and early 1970s she reputedly squandered vast sums gambling on both sides of the Atlantic, and insisted on cash payments for Dalí's work to cover her losses. Dalí's artistic reputation would be judged by his oil paintings, over which he agonized, but most of the money poured in through the sale of prints, lithographs, postcards and fairly distasteful commercial ventures. Gala swiftly realized that every scrap of paper on which Dalí signed his name was worth something.

She would demand that the printer secretly run off more than the agreed-upon number of prints. So, if collectors were assured that they were buying one of 1,250 "original" prints, they were in fact being cheated into buying one out of, say, 7,000 prints. In 1981 Gala convinced Dalí to sign 35,000 blank sheets which, the Spanish Press claimed, were sold to several editors who put whatever image they wanted on them.

Although Gala was 10 years older than Dalí, nobody — especially not Dalí — thought that she would die first. When she went in 1982, Dalí lost his will to paint or even live. He shut himself up in her room, pulled the curtains and refused to let any sustenance or friends relieve his darkness. He forbade anyone to mention Gala's name. Alone, in the tower of his surrealist museum, he raged against his decrepitude, terrified of his approaching death.

Wicked Lady by Tim McGirk is published by Hutchinson, price £12.95



Age of ambition: although Gala was 10 years older, nobody — especially Dalí — thought she would die first

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## MUSEUMS

## A fresh look at yesterday

Five years ago the railway warehouse in Lower Byrom Street was a filthy, lowering pile of the 1880s, a melancholy relic of Manchester's industrial past — "an unimpressive sight", says director Dr Patrick Greene, putting it mildly, when his Manchester Museum of Science and Industry acquired it. But when they started cleaning it, something happened which turned it into a kind of emblem for industrial museums. "It was one uniform, indeterminate colour," Greene explains, "but when we removed the grime we found this beautiful patterned brickwork. We took out the iron-framed windows, ugly because they had been painted over so many times. We grained each one back to the original, and when we replaced them, what had been lumpish, ugly windows were delightful."

On March 10 the Duchess of York, patron of Museums Year, will formally open this latest addition to the museum complex which covers the city's old Castlefield railway estate. Looking down on the vast 12,000 square metres of the ground floor from a balcony, visitors can watch the never-ending process of restoration in the workshop below. On the second floor is "Experiment", a hands-on science area, and in the basement the library and records are available to the public, instead of being an archive for curators and scholars only. The original light well running from top to bottom of the building now contains dramatically rising ramps, and a glass lift.

The aim is to heighten awareness of the role of industry today, and the importance of science-based jobs in the kind of modern industrial society that Manchester is now. "Elsewhere on the site the same principle applies to our design studio and modelmakers' workshop," Greene says, "and later this year the curatorial centre will open on the same basis."

Last year he did something which would have been unthinkable a decade ago: he made a feature of the obsolete sewage running beneath the main building. "Underground Manchester" examines sanitation in the city of the 1840s, the cholera it brought ("the drawback to realism is that people keep pinching the dead rats," Greene says, adding that

The heartlands of Britain's industrial past are busy scrubbing down its monuments and artefacts for a new generation, Simon Tait reports



Window on the past: both young and old enjoy the nostalgic recreation of old shops at the Black Country Museum at Dudley

the rats are fake), and the development of sanitation. "It's astonishingly popular. Hundreds of people come in asking 'where are the sewers?'"

The Manchester museum started out to record the city's place in technological history. Now it has grown beyond its municipal role, and its publicity claims that it is "Europe's fastest growing industrial museum."

Richard Ellam would like to be able to say the same in the next three years about his new charge, the "highest museum in Britain", at Wanlockhead in Lanarkshire. The Museum of Scottish Lead Mining there

is 15 years old, and has never had a curator until now, relying on volunteers to show 30,000 people a year down the mine and round the little museum building itself.

Ellam was recruited at the beginning of the year to create a realistic income. A new museum building will tell the story of lead mining from the early 18th century. Ellam also has two cottages, one restored to its 1740s appearance, the other representing the home of a miner in the 1890s.

His open-air section, containing the workshops

where the first steamboat engine was built 200 years ago, will be enhanced with a replica of the boat it drove, made for Glasgow's Garden Festival last year.

The industrial Midlands are naturally rich in industrial museums. The Black Country Museum at Dudley has been a course leader in the field of recording the industrial society, with its reconstructed buildings on a huge open-air site. But it could not tell the story of the coalfield without a mine, and you could not get 275,000 people a year down a mine, not if you wanted to get them out again. "So we're making a fake one," says

director Ian Walden. "We're making 250 metres of tunnels and caverns underground, with a coalface and rockface equally fake, and pit scenes from the 1850s, which were the heyday of the coalfield."

In May, a more modest celebration of industry opens in what was the world's leading iron town, Merthyr Tydfil. It is a beneficiary of the Welsh Office's "greening of the valleys" policy, with just over £200,000 coming in three years to turn the Ynysfach Engine House into an interpretation of the iron industry in Merthyr. Too small to have working engines — the steam engine which filled it was

stripped and sold for scrap at the turn of the century — it has models, recordings and film, talking about the technology which provided the rails that opened up the American West, along with most of the rest of the world.

As well as being instructive, industrial museums can be pure, simple fun. The largest collection of steam engines in Europe attracts up to 8,000 people a day when steam is up, just for the sheer thrill of seeing mighty machines come to furious life. The Bressingham Live Steam Museum at Diss in Norfolk has 50 engines, from the Royal Scotsman locomotive to a Victorian carousel, and has had to extend its steam-up days from a few summer Sundays to three or four days a week in the high season, to meet public demand.

It was public demand, too, which made Peter Hawkins transform the China Clay Museum at Wheal Martyn, near St Austell in Cornwall.

Set up by the industry to record past techniques at a time of transition to high technology, it grew from a few bits of machinery to become an open-air museum with its own working clay pit. Hawkins noticed how wildlife flourished among this kind of industry, so he added a nature trail. A year ago he canvassed his visitors to see how many followed the trail; 82 per cent responded positively, so new books, trails and research have gone into building up that aspect.

Last year the flagship of this sector, London's Science Museum — or the National Museum of Science and Industry, to give it its proper title — launched its own five-year, £10 million transformation plan. "We are developing the technique of talking to the non-scientific public about science and technology, which has been completely abstruse to them in some aspects," says the director, Dr Neil Cossons, speaking for an entire generation of industrial museums.

"We are trying to present industry and technology in some style that is not just intelligent, but gives some aesthetic stimulation, such as you would find in a museum of archaeology or decorative arts. We're talking not just about yesterday, but about today and tomorrow."

## EXHIBITION CALENDAR



**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** The postal service in wartime. Exhibition theme runs until October with changing exhibits. Currently on show is the three-year correspondence between an RAF officer serving in Egypt and his fiancée, a secret courier with an eye for the telling details of wartime life in provincial England. Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath (0225 60333). Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free (ET entrance fee once building work completed). Until Tuesday.

**THE CITY'S PICTURES:** Edinburgh's art centre is invaded for two months by a selection from the 3,000 works in the city's collection. Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2424 ext 6650). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. Free. Until March 11.

**RAIDERS:** The story of the Army Commandos — their foundation, development and activities in the Second World War — put together by the National Army Museum, Chelmsford and Essex Museum, Chelmsford (0245 480490). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until March 12.

**PHOTOGRAPHY NOW:** The best in the last 10 years of international photography. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London (01-938 8500). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm. Voluntary admission charge. Until April 30.

**MINISTERING ANGELS:** The role of Liverpool in the history of nursing, and the women beneath the talcose. Merseyside Museum of Labour History, Island, Liverpool (051-207 0001). Weekdays 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until May 2.

**BLACK ART, NEW DIRECTIONS:** Wide range of work selected by other black artists. 30 new works by eight young artists. City Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173). Opens Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until March 27.

Jenny Gilbert

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## GARDENING

### Flowers hold an early show

Inspired by the premature spring,  
Francesca Greenoak thinks of Chelsea

Impossible to bold back any longer on the subject of unseasonal garden events set off by the mild weather — gardens are in full bloom: crocuses, hellebores, primroses, *Iris Unguicularis*, species daffodils and lungworts (pulmonarias). Any advance on a half-ripe strawberry and a small tortoiseshell butterfly?

This year the Chelsea Flower Show takes place from Tuesday May 23 to Friday May 26. Whole day tickets for Members' Day (Tuesday) are already sold out. If you are an RHS member, the following are still available: May 23, 8-9pm (£6); May 24, 8am-8pm (£8), or 3-8pm (£6). Also Thursday and Friday whole day tickets, at £5 each.

Tickets available for members of the general public are: May 25, 8am-8pm (£14) or 4-8pm (£7); May 26, 8am-8pm (£10). The best buy is probably the Thursday afternoon ticket, which is not only reasonably priced, but lets you in at a time when there are usually fewer people, so exhibits are more accessible. There are special arrangements for a limited number of disabled people on Press Day (Monday) as well as the other days; write to the RHS for details. To book tickets, send



Out now: *Iris unguicularis*

**WEEKEND TIPS**

- Start to take conifer cuttings: cut through a node at the base of last year's growth, placing them in a pot of compost and sharp sand.
- Add compost and an all-round fertilizer to herbaceous beds and borders.
- Sow broad beans and carrots in situ under polypropylene floating cloches or standard cloches.
- Report fusaria and geranium cuttings which have overwintered.
- Sow hardy annuals in seed trays in a cool greenhouse or cold frame.

**RESTAURANT GUIDE**  
Continued on next page

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة



## EATING OUT

## Star-struck in Paris

Deep in the heart of Michelin country, Jonathan Meades seeks out the confident, understated cooking of a two-star establishment

Le Grand Vérolé au Grand Palais — the daunting Gauguin exhibition — is this season's main excuse for a trip to Paris; the second excuse is gastro-medico Schadenfreude — we went to see the tumblers full of listeria victims and to congratulate ourselves on sticking to Lymeswold. Strangely I saw no bodies anywhere; even more strangely, my attempts to distribute to the poor benighted people of that city wedges of finest Lymeswold and traditional rich o' heavy quots of Croydon Cheddar met with no thanks, but cries of *salut, bonjour* etc. Who was it — Mazarin? — who said "We don't tell you 'ow to do ze football 'ooliganess, you don't tell us 'ow to do ze chiz".

Right, those are the seasonal excuses. The perpetual reasons for visiting Paris as a tourist are its beauty, its urbanistic formality, its cleanliness, its gastronomy and its compactness — these last two go together. Within a 20-minute walk of Le Grand Palais are to be found more Michelin-starred restaurants than there are in the whole of the United Kingdom.

What does that tell us? The first thing it tells us is that Paris is — some revelation — the gastronomic capital of the world. But it also tells us that it is much more difficult for a chef working in the UK to get a rosette (for two, let alone three) than it is for a chef in France. Now, I'm not trying to deny that London is a gastronomic midget beside Paris; but equally, it's much better than it was.

Part of the cause of the lack of international recognition is that it is hampered by its past reputation; part is that the British inspectors for *Michelin: Great Britain and Ireland* are more French than the French, and appear to apply stiffer gauges; part is the wretched British Tourist

**CARRÉ DES FEUILLANTS**  
★★★★★  
14 Rue Castiglione, Paris 1  
(42 86 82 82)  
£90. NB No British credit cards. Lunch and dinner, Mon to Fri.



Authority's persistent promotion of "typically British" (that is to say, typically bad) establishments. Go into a BTA office in Paris or Rome or Madrid and you will find brochures recommending absolute dumps — mostly chain-owned — that are totally unreflexive of the culinary amelioration of the past decade or so.

Of course it's not at the level of starred restaurants that France is so vastly superior, but at that of modest everyday places. None the less, after Gauguin you might want a treat, or at least a reward for having got round the entire show.

So, leave the Grand Palais (which is a spectacular work of

engineering), head east down the Champs Elysées to Place de la Concorde, on to Rue de Rivoli, and hang a left towards the column in the centre of Place Vendôme. This is Rue Castiglione — the walk should have taken you less than 10 minutes, and if you enjoy stone in the service of pomp, it is one of the most inspiring walks in the world.

Rue Castiglione is arched, and the restaurant Carré des Feuillants, which is in a courtyard of that name on its east side, is not easy to find. It should, however, be sought. It is the second establishment to be opened by the young chef, Alain Dutournier, who started with Au Trou Gascon,

between the Gare de Lyon and the Bois de Vincennes.

He still owns and oversees that joint, but now cooks in this far grander, far more salubrious quarter. And in far Gascon surroundings, too. Au Trou Gascon is a posh belle époque bistrot; Carré des Feuillants is a posh restaurant — tan panelling, eastern carpets, a foyer with a stone bath full of ice and bottles of fizz, hanging plaids, excellent prints (a 19th-century hippopotamus hunt on the Congo river, dogs ripping hares to bits). There is no attempt to achieve a unity of style: the old and the new (plate glass doors, a bizarre log fire — for spit roasting? — enclosed in a

glass box in the middle of the dining room) sit unselfconsciously alongside each other. This is refreshing after the ubiquitous repro of London.

Dutournier's confident and slightly understated cooking is pretty much faithful to his native south-west, though it is even less down-home than it was at his former stove; he certainly doesn't go in for the sort of museum cooking that you might find in places with names like, say, Comma Dax or Relais du Gers — establishments which major in unevolved "authenticity".

The preprandial snacks — fried bread with a thin coating of intense tomato sauce, and a

hot croustade of chicken which evokes non-industrial farmyards — augur well; the house cocktail doesn't. It seemed to have been dreamed up just to be different, just to ensure that it was something no one else did — they didn't do it for a very good reason. But this is where the gimmickry begins and ends.

The fairly short lunch menu is thick with foie gras dishes, and Dutournier's raviolis stuffed with them in a light consomme with a julienne of truffles is as good a way as any of using up the livers of greedy geese and ducks. His cooking is clean-tasting and healthy and never more so than in a delicate persille of rabbit — the meat bound in a ginger-flavoured jelly with pieces of carrot and cep, and alongside it, a marvellous purée of ceps.

After these came an even better dish — roast duck with roast celeriac. The duck was cooked, it wasn't like a bloody blood; the sauce was a bloody blood, foie gras and, maybe, a bit of chocolate (which would be consistent with south-western practice); the skin was crisp, the meat was going on gamey; there was virtually no subcutaneous fat, and what little there was was cut by green olives. It was an unshowy dish, fairly gentle, and brilliantly accomplished.

It was followed by four kinds of free-range listeria — two from Gascon, one from Corsica, one from Alsace, and

they were followed by a crème brûlée which owed more to Catalan precedent than to the burnt-sugar item that is good for breaking wrists. With a 1985 Cahors from Domaine Eugénie, two coffees (and pretty good frenchises) the damage was £90, a sum comparable to what you'll pay at a comparable restaurant in London.

The point is, which are the comparable restaurants in London? I'd suggest that Michelin hasn't a clue — it's no deprecation of Dutournier to aver that Carré des Feuillants has two rosettes when Ladenis, White and Deltell should have three, and an entire constellation should have two. But there you are — *autre pays* and all that.

## DIRECTORY

## ST JOHN'S WOOD

**As Dele St Jean**  
122 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8  
(01-722 0400)

★ ★ ★  
Basement bistro of the old school — cooking and decor recall the 1960s: dried flowers and heavy sauces, beans and crude moussses. Occasional dishes, such as mushroom beaver, and fish soup, show a bit of flair. £25.

**Al Saefer**  
3 Circus Road, London NW8  
(01-588 9183)

★ ★ ★  
Lebanese establishment decorated in full blown Louis Farouk style. A mecca for Lebanese eaters and fans of purplé aubergine. £25.

**Ministry's**  
Hilton International Regents Park, 18 Lodge Road, London NW8 (01-722 7722)

★ ★ ★  
Pseudo Jewish deli in an hotel just about overlooking Lord's. Useful for cheapish cricket lovers who are uneasy about the quality of their salt beef sandwiches. £25.

## SPANISH

**Don Pepe** 98 Frampton Street, London NW8 (01-262 3834)

★ ★ ★  
Animated Galician tapes bar and restaurant that is an unofficial club for local Spaniards. The Asturian bean stew called fabada, the black puddings, tortilla and skewered pork are commendable. Tapas £15, meat £25.

**Bar Escoba**  
102 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-373 2403)

★ ★ ★  
Especially Spanish tapes served in a former pub done over by the trendiest designers of 1986. The lack of accuracy in the cooking is rather astonishing. £40.

**Meehan Don Felipe**  
53 The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 3237)

★ ★ ★  
Pleasant tapes bar near Waterloo frequented by a select band of hands. Most dishes are better than fish ones. Decent Rioja and Manchego cheeses. £25.

**Guernica**  
21a Foley Street, London W1 (01-580 0623)

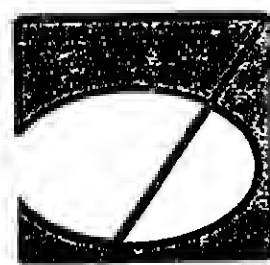
★ ★ ★  
The only specifically Basque restaurant in London. A small room draped with yards of white material as though countless brides had been robbed of their dresses. Hise cooked with clams is an outstanding dish, others are variable. £25.

**Los Rameros**  
38a Southwick Street, London W2 (01-706 1870)

★ ★ ★  
Complicated tapes served in a rather austere Paddington basement. The clientele is Spanish middle management, the atmosphere is animated, indifferent to local good or bad. San Miguel beer, sherry, Rioja. £25 (full meal for two).

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

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## OUTDOOR LEISURE

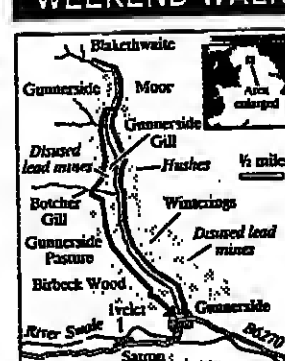
## A hush in the Dales

In Swaledale purple-headed knapweed and water avens colour the roadside verges. Sturdy limestone walls, criss-crossing the pastures, enclose a carpet of golden buttercups. Well-maintained stone barns, a feature of the Dales, dot this pleasing landscape.

Leave Gunnerside by the signposted path that hugs the beck before passing through woodland. A cuckoo calls and a family of redstarts flit with jerky flight from branch to branch. Conifers, pastures, and spoil tips, all turfed with sweet-smelling thyme and white saxifrage.

Follow the path on to the open fell. The scene is idyllic in the sun, but remember those miners who walked the route in the snow and the rain

## WEEKEND WALK



before working long hours

wrestling ore from the gill.

Walk on through another

scene of industrial dereliction,

past the deep gouges known as

hushes. Miners created a hush

when they released a torrent

from an artificial dam to wash

away all in its path, revealing

the vein of lead beneath.

Today only the "peep, peep,

peep" of a ring ouzel disturbs

the quiet. The path passes

through a ravine to the man-

made falls at the Blackthwaite

Dams; here dippers breed.

Return through the gill. Just

beyond a gentle fall, cross the

beck by the ancient mine

bridge, walking along a grassy

path with extensive views of

Yorkshire stretching away

into the haze. The path joins a

cart-track by the magnificent

waterfall in Butcher Gill.

Where the track swings to the

right, a mile and a half long,

cottincoe straight ahead

following an indistinct path

downhill to Gunnerside.

Mary Welsh

## OUTINGS

**WINDMILL OPEN DAY:**  
Opportunity to visit this ancient windmill, restored by the Lincoln Civic Trust for the Queen's Jubilee. Guides to take you round.

Ellis Mill, Mill Lane, Lincoln.

Today, tomorrow, 2pm-dusk.

Adults 50p, child 15p.

**HOUGHTON TOWERS:** Quality

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items vetted.

Houghton Towers, Preston,

Lancashire. Today 11am-6pm.

Tomorrow 11am-3pm.

Admission £2.

**MID-KENT TOY**

**COLLECTORS' FAIR:**

Opportunity to buy, sell or

exchange rare, obsolete or

unusual toys and models.

The Agricultural Hall,

Maidstone Market, Kent.

Today, 9am-4pm. Admission

50p.

Judy Froshaug

## Radar that spots a drop of rain

## WEATHER EYE

Radar images shown on the TV weather forecast graphically illustrate how rainfall patterns develop and move across the British Isles. While, until last week, the South-East has had little rain in recent months, further north and west, broadcast images have shown frequent bands of heavy rain.

The radar measurement of rainfall works like this: a short intense pulse of very high frequency radio waves is sent out by a transmitter. When this strikes a target, such as a cell of rain, some of the signal is reflected back and can be collected by a receiver.

The time taken for the pulse to complete the round trip to the target and back to the receiver indicates how far away it is. The intensity of the reflective signal is a function of the amount and size of the rain drops in the radar beam.

So a picture of rainfall patterns can be obtained. Theoretically, it should be possible to measure rainfall precisely. In practice it is not, because the ground reflects the radar pulses, it is difficult to make low-level measurements.

If there is low cloud, especially over hills, which enhances the rainfall, or, conversely, if the rain is evaporating near the

ground, errors will creep in.

Despite the limitations, the

UK Meteorological Office has

developed radar measurement

of rainfall to a high degree.

Not only can it provide pic-

tures of current rainfall con-

ditions and estimate how much

has fallen, it can help provide

accurate forecasts of how

areas of rain will change a few

hours ahead.

These improved forecasts

use radar measurements from

both the UK and the Continent

that are recorded every 15

minutes. The half-hourly im-

ages of cloud cover obtained

from Meteosat, the geostation-

ary satellite stationed over

the equator, provide further

data. All the information is

combined with computer mod-

els of the atmosphere.

The more accurate tracking

of the movement and de-

velopment of severe thunder-

storms is the most immediate

example of exploiting these

techniques.

Potentially more valuable is

the ability to use rainfall

measurements to provide im-

proved warnings of flooding.

Water authorities are using

these forecasts to take action

to manage the run-off in

catchment areas, to reduce

damage and to warn emer-

gency services of possible

impending disasters.

W. J. Burroughs

For more Outdoor Leisure, see page 59

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1806

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, March 2. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, March 4.

- ACROSS
- 1 Liquid jet (6)
  - 2 Classical oracle (5)
  - 3 With it (3)
  - 4 Beach stone (6)
  - 5 Mole's presence of (6)
  - 6 Nautical mph (4)
  - 7 Model (8)
  - 8 Showy dress (6)
  - 9 Double up stake (6)
  - 10 Tin mine area (8)
  - 11 Rock bryophyte (4)
  - 12 Quaker (6)
  - 13 Unimpaired (6)
  - 14 Head (3)
  -



## THE TIMES COOK

## Right-thinking left-overs

Frances Bissell reports on the happy results of being frugal

DIANA LEADBETTER

**H**ave you noticed how some of your most successful dishes come about almost by accident? Mine often develop from using left-overs the day after a dinner party. One of my favourite dishes for guests is thin slices of marinated, raw, undyed smoked haddock. The last time I served this, a whole fillet yielded not only plenty of slices for marinating but a small fillet weighing about 4oz/110g. I refrigerated it and the next day cut it into eight pieces, wrapped each one in a thin slice of smoked, streaky bacon secured with a toothpick, and baked them in a hot oven for 10 minutes; very tasty they were, too.

I had the oven on because I was also making a fish and potato pie, using the remaining slices of the marinated smoked haddock, some fresh mussels and mashed potatoes. It was a marvellously old-fashioned winter dish, full of flavour and carbohydrates.

In using up some apricots, the left-overs turned out almost better than the original dish. I ate waste and could not bear to throw away the three or four fruits which I had stuffed with a sweetened ground almond mix, baked and served with whipped cream flavoured with vanilla and apricot syrup. I chopped the apricots and put them in the bottom of small ramekins and smoothed over them a layer of vanilla cream, which was by now firm. Then I spooned on thick double cream, sprinkled them with demerara sugar and put them under a hot grill until the sugar had melted. I then chilled them until ready to serve - burnt apricot creams. I shall cook them again without making a dish of baked apricots first.

Left-overs do give plenty of scope for producing imaginative dishes. I always enjoy the chapter you find in many French cookery books on "l'art d'accommoder les restes", which deals with the subject quite frankly. Of course, you have to be careful with left-overs, as with any food preparation. Never just warm food through. Meat and fish must be thoroughly reheated to a high temperature. Not everything will be suitable for re-cooking. Shellfish spoils very quickly and should never be re-cooked. Food that you intend to serve again should be cooled quickly and refrigerated immediately. It is quite possible to follow sensible food hygiene guidelines and still enjoy being creative and thrifty at the same time.

The soup recipe came not from left-overs but from some rather small wrinkled Jerusalem artichokes in my vegetable basket. They still had a marvellous sweet flavour.

**Tomato and Jerusalem artichoke soup**  
(Serves 4)

1 small onion  
1 tbsp olive oil  
10/455g ripe tomatoes or 14oz/400g tin peeled plum tomatoes  
1/2lb/230g Jerusalem artichokes  
1 1/2pt/850ml vegetable or chicken stock  
Salt  
Pepper

Peel and slice the onion, and fry it



until soft in the olive oil. Roughly chop the tomatoes, and put these in the pan as well as the juice, seeds and skin. Scrub and trim but do not peel the artichokes. Cut them in half, or slice them if large, and cook them with the tomatoes, partly covered, until soft, moistening if necessary with stock. Rub the vegetables through a sieve or blend until smooth and sieve into a clean saucepan. Stir in the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes. Add then season and serve hot. Cream and herbs can be stirred in if liked.

Small savoury pastries can be served with the soup to turn it into a substantial lunch or supper dish. I have been experimenting with sweet and savoury mixtures, something like the traditional mince pies when meat was added to the fruit mixture. I have used cooked minced game, either raw lamb, minced and then cooked, or cooked lamb that has been finely chopped or minced.

**Mince meat pastries**  
(Makes 12)  
1/2lb/230g puff pastry  
1/2lb/110g cooked minced meat  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 tsp grated apple  
1 tsp finely chopped onion  
1 tsp dark muscovado or other unrefined sugar  
1/4 tsp ground cardamom  
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon  
freshly grated nutmeg  
Salt  
Pepper

Roll out the puff pastry, and line the tart tins, also cutting out 12 pastry lids. Mix the rest of the ingredients, and divide among the pastry cases. Cover with pastry, and brush with milk to glaze. Bake in a pre-heated oven, 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, for 15 to 18 minutes.

**Fish and potato pie**  
(Serves 4)  
2-2 1/2lb/90-110kg potatoes

6-8 cloves garlic  
Salt  
Pepper  
1/2pt/70ml olive oil  
2lb/900g fresh mussels  
1/2lb/340g undyed smoked haddock fillet, thinly sliced  
2 fresh tomatoes  
1/2pt/140ml whipping cream or thick plain yoghurt  
Fresh parsley

Peel and boil the potatoes and garlic. Drain and mash them with salt, pepper and most of the olive oil. With the rest of the olive oil, brush a shallow ovenproof dish. While the potatoes are cooking, scrub the mussels, tug off their beards, knock off any barnacles and discard any that remain open. Rinse thoroughly and put in a lidded saucepan. Steam over a high heat for about three minutes, and strain the cooking liquor through a fine sieve. When the mussels are cool enough to handle, remove them from their shells and put to one side.

Spread half the mashed potatoes over the bottom of the dish. Arrange slices of smoked haddock down one side and the mussels down the other. Top with the rest of the mashed potatoes. Slice the tomatoes and arrange on top of the potatoes. Whisk the cream or yoghurt with about 1/2pt/70ml mussel liquor, and pour it over the pie. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4, for 25 to 30 minutes. Scatter with chopped parsley and serve.

To finish, try a cool refreshing bowl of citrus fruit in a mint syrup. You could also add a few crushed cardamom seeds or a drop of orange flower water.

**Orange and grapefruit salad**  
(Serves 4)  
3 or 4 oranges  
2 pink grapefruits  
1/2pt/70ml water  
1 tsp honey or sugar  
Sprigs of fresh mint

Peel and slice the oranges and grapefruits, or slice and peel them. I slice them and cut the peel off with kitchen scissors. Arrange them in a shallow dish, and squeeze the juice from the round and-slices into a saucepan. Add the water, honey or sugar and all but the tips of the mint sprigs which can be kept back for decoration. Heat the liquid until the sugar has melted, and then simmer it for 2 or 3 minutes. Strain it over the fruit, arrange the mint leaves on top and chill until required.

Finally, here is a recipe not for leftovers, but for a party pudding in response to readers' requests for something that does not require constant or folded-in egg white, and gets away from the jelly and yogurt variations which pall after a while. If you cannot get the small rafia biscuits, experiment with other almond biscuits.

**Rafatia cream**  
(Serves 4 to 6)  
6-8oz/170-230g rafia biscuits  
1/2pt/70ml liquor, wine or spirits  
4 tsp or four leaves of gelatine  
1/2pt/140ml milk  
1 tbsp sugar  
1/2pt/280ml double cream  
5oz/140g cream cheese, curd cheese or thick Greek yoghurt  
1 tsp finely chopped crystallized angelica

Soak the biscuits in liquor, wine or spirits for five to 10 minutes and use them to line the base and sides of a glass or china soufflé dish. I use one about 8in/20cm in diameter and 3in/8cm deep. Soften the gelatine in the milk, set it over a pan of hot water and stir until it has dissolved. Add the sugar. Whisk the double cream with three tablespoons of the remaining milk until it forms firm peaks. Blend the warm sweet gelatine mixture with the cheese or yoghurt. Fold this and the cream together and carefully fold in the angelica. Spoon half into the biscuit-lined dish, put a layer of rafia biscuits on top of the cream and then spoon the rest of the cream on top. Smooth it and decorate it before chilling until set. A sprinkling of cocoa powder is simple and effective. Curds of chocolate look good or try piped whipped cream, crystallized fruit or more rafia.

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## DRINK

## On the ball, off the shelf

Safeway's new wine buyers had only one way to go when they joined the company in 1987: up. For the quality of the wine was appalling and the range was inadequate. To top it all, Safeway's wine department was impossible to get hold of. When I found a wine that I wanted to recommend, there was no way of knowing whether my bottle was a special one-off purchase, or widely distributed and therefore suitable for inclusion here. But in 18 months, Simon Mount, the wine trading controller, and Master of Wine Liz Robertson, the manager, have become a buying force of considerable strength.

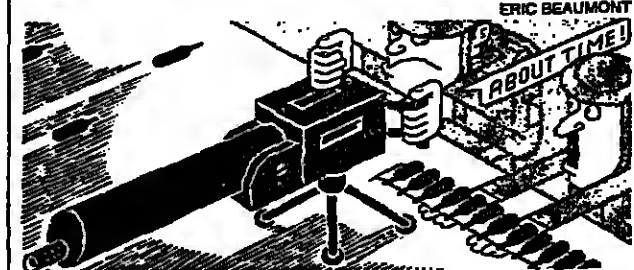
Recent expansion means that by the early 1990s, Safeway should have about 400 outlets, putting it in the Sainsbury and Tesco league, which is why the goings-on of its wine department are of vital importance to Britain's wine drinkers.

Simon Mount was amazed by the "extraordinary gaps in the range" when he arrived. It did, for instance, sell Bulgarian wine, an essential

the next tier up, a trio of German varietal wines to be drunk with food. The non-vintage Rheinpfalz Gewürztraminer from the Co-operative at Rietburg is an especially delicious example. Its stylish flowery scent and elegant, spiced palate make it one of the finest Pfalz Gewürztraminers that I have ever tasted and, at £2.99 a bottle, it is a Safeway bargain.

From the same co-operative, but not quite so impressive, is the non-vintage Spätburgunder or Pinot Noir (£2.99). Red German wines are rare, good ones rarer still. This light, juicy strawberry and redcurrant example is, as Robertson put it, "a very unthreatening wine". It will make a simple, soft drink for those who normally dislike red wines.

Having successfully fulfilled Mount's brief of revitalizing the German range, Robertson's next job was to fill in some obvious gaps. Australian and Californian wines duly appeared on the shelves. The did, for instance, sell



dozen splendid Labour-Roi Burgundies prior to Christmas.

Equally impressive is the 1987 Margaux "produced and bottled at Château Palmer", priced at just £6.50. Sainsbury must have wept with rage. With its fine, fragrant style and rich, cedary palate, this '87 is tasting even better now than it was then. Two other great Bordeaux buys here include the excellent rich, luscious white Graves Château de Roquetaillade La Grange, (£4.99), and a glorious claret from the Frontac region, '85 Château Des Tonnelles (£4.85), with its seductive blackcurrant scent and taste.

Robertson and Mount have managed to locate several additional stars to place in the Safeway firmament. Jeroboam of Bollinger non-vintage are still available here at £75 a throw and, amazingly, so too are single bottles of 1983 Margaux at £65.

Jane MacQuitty

## WINE BUYS

● Chardonnay Spumante, Carboni Estate, Safeway. Sparkling wine drinkers who dislike the blindingly dry style of most French fizz will enjoy the light, musky, apple-pineapple scent and taste of this well-made Italian offering. ● 1988 Orlando Jacob's Creek Dry Red, £13.99. Augustus Barnett and Davisons. This South Australian red, made mostly

from Shiraz topped up with Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, improves almost with each vintage. This '86 boasts a robust, earthy-peppery fruit. ● 1985 Cape Clairat Cabernet Sauvignon, £11.95, Barnes Wine Shop, 51 Barnes High Street, London SW13. The delicious ripe, meaty, Cassis and mulberry fruit of this wine makes it a real winter treat. Pricy but worth it.

## BRIDGE

## Ruffled amateur feathers

The Devonshire Cup, one of the oldest events in the calendar, brings back happy memories of my bridge youth. Supposedly it is a rubber duplicate competition for non-bridge clubs. It is the definition of "non-bridge club" which has caused one or two ruffled feathers over the years.

In the early days the RAC was as dominant in this particular field as the Italian Blue Team. The traditional West End clubs would serve as cannon fodder against the might of Gardener, Molloy, Tario and North. Perhaps there was the odd complaint, but for the most part the RAC represented giants to conquer.

When, after numerous failures, Hurlingham eventually defeated the old rival, questions were posed about the legitimacy of the Hurlingham team. Unfairly, let me say, because although I was an indifferent tennis player, Friday was one of the most accomplished mixed doubles poachers that you could find between Framlingham and Aldeburgh.

The matches, black tie affairs, were held at the gracious premises of the Devonshire Club. The format, with the bridge played before and after an excellent dinner, often engendered spectacular revivals and collapses in the second half.

In the early Seventies, the competition changed. The RAC, perhaps satiated by a series of bloodless victories, withdrew. Crookfords and the Hamilton Club disappeared into the maws of the property developers, and the majority of their bridge-playing members joined the Eccentric Club.

The Eccentric, technically a non-bridge club, duly entered an "amateur" team in the Devonshire Cup. After some

early successful skirmishing, this team qualified for the semi-finals, where they were drawn to meet the Law Society, a side containing a number of international players. Rightly or wrongly, the Eccentric substituted a team which could, and had, done service for Great Britain.

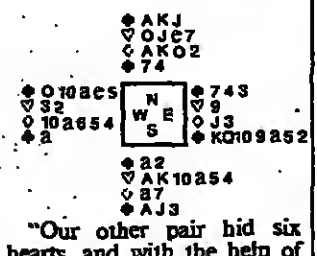
The Law Society, obviously aggrieved, played the match, if not "without prejudice", certainly without cordiality. As expected, the Eccentric hard men easily prevailed. Their duty done, the pros were benched and the amateurs restored to win the final. It took some time for the rumbles over this storm to subside.

These memories are revived by an incident in this year's competition, when Queen's Club B were due to meet Hurlingham.

"Our team," my Queen's informant assured me, "was a truly amateur one. Imagine our surprise when we saw who was representing Hurlingham. For a moment we thought of calling up Zia Mahmood."

It transpired that the Hurlingham figure of fear was Bernard Teitelcher. Now it is true that Teitelcher has enough master points to paper Waterloo station, but he is, after all, the sort of dragon who only breathes fire if seriously provoked. "What happened?" I asked.

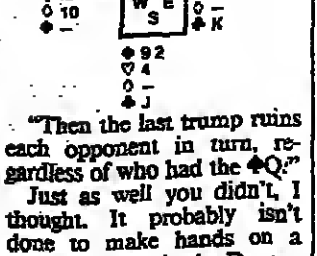
"After a level first half, everything turned on this hand."



"Our other pair bid six hearts, and with the help of the spade finesse made all 13 tricks. In our room Teitelcher bid to seven hearts. Instead of relying on the spade finesse, he played on a squeeze and went down. Poetic justice, don't you think?"

The time had obviously come to speak to Teitelcher. "Bernard, may I have a few words on a matter of some delicacy?"

"Oh dear," Teitelcher said, "that hand will be perpetually engraved on my heart. On a trump lead I cashed five rounds of hearts, throwing a club from dummy. West threw a diamond, suggesting he had three or five, while East peered heavily in clubs. To my eternal shame I tried to squeeze East in the black suits. But suppose after the hearts I cash dummy's top diamonds before returning to my hand with the Ace of clubs, this would have been the ending:



"Then the last trump runs each opponent in turn, regardless of who had the ♠Q. Just as well you didn't, I thought. It probably isn't done to make hands on a double squeeze in the Devonshire Cup."

Jeremy Flint

## CHESS

## World pairs

The pairings for the World Championship semi-finals are now known, since Karpov has defeated Hjartarson in Seattle. Yusupov has edged out victory in his quarter-final against Spraggett in Quebec City, and Timman has overcome stern resistance from Portisch in Antwerp. The next stage of the championship will take place in London in October, according to the Grandmasters' Association, and will pit Britain's Jon Speelman against Jan Timman (Holland), and the two Russians, Karpov and Yusupov, against each other.

White: Jan Timman; Black: Lajos Portisch. Final game, World Championship quarter-final, Antwerp, February 8. Sicilian Defence.

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 Nxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Oe7 6 g3 Nf5 7 Bg2 Be6 8 0-0 0-0 9 Bf4 Bc7 10 Bb1 Bb6 11 Na4 Bb7 12 Bb3

The Dutch Grandmaster succumbs to the temptation to win a pawn, but at the cost of permitting his opponent substantial counterattacks.

If Black insists on clinging to the defence of his d6 pawn by playing 12... gxf6 then 13 f5 to be followed by Bh3 would place Black under immense pressure.

True, White has a pawn more in a relatively simplified position. As Capablanca taught, however, the profusion of separate White pawn islands proves a great handicap in converting the advantage into a win.

An inaccuracy which permits Black to hold the pos-

ition. White should have played 28 Bg3 meeting 28... Rc5 with 29 Bg4 Bxg4 30 Rxc4 Rg5 31 Re3 Rxe2 32 Rb3 when White's advantage persists.

Portisch overestimates his chances, believing erroneously that great things will arise from his penetration of White's fortress via the open "f" file. He should, instead, have contented himself with the modest 28... Rxc4 when 29 Rd7+ Kxd7 30 Bxc4 results in a drawn outcome.

Portisch had probably been intending to re-establish material equilibrium by means of 30... Bxc2, but only now did he appreciate that 31 Bg2 Bb8 32 Kd2 or 31... b6 32 Ra3 a5 33 c5 would both leave White with the upper hand. His rejection of the pawn capture on move 28 still leaves him struggling for a draw.

21 Bg2 Bg3 22 Kd2 23 Kd2 24 Kd2 25 Kd2 26 Kd2 27 Kd2 28 Kd2 29 Kd2 30 Kd2 31 Kd2 32 Kd2 33 Kd2 34 Kd2 35 Kd2 36 Kd2 37 Kd2

Raymond Keene

## WINNING MOVE



In the diagram, White can win swiftly. What is White's winning move?

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## RECORDS

# Lessons in original thinking

The simplest way of explaining post-modernism is that it selects its materials exclusively from the past, while avoiding the simplicity of revivalism: it is also, therefore, by definition a medium of criticism, a *de facto* commentary on its own history. In the field of vernacular music, Wynton Marsalis and Elvis Costello are quintessential post-modernists, bringing a trenchant critical perspective to bear on an encyclopaedic knowledge of their respective idioms.

As its most barren, post-modernism seems like the fulfilment of the Marxist philosopher Gramsci's gloomy dictum: "The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in between, a variety of morbid symptoms appears." And I suppose its very existence is a criticism of our age. At its most useful and relevant, though, post-modernism can provide the opportunity to re-examine modes of thought which, in times of genuine progression, were abandoned too hastily.

Take *News for Lulu*, for example, the remarkable new CD-only release in which a trio of New York's finest young musicians, the alto saxophonist John Zorn, the trombonist George Lewis and the guitarist Bill Frisell, reinterpret the compositions of four comparatively obscure post-bop musicians of the 1950s; here is post-modernism at its most constructive, using history to make a new present.

The subjects of this study are united by a common allegiance, in their heyday, to the Blue Note label. The pianist Sonny Clark is probably the most widely recognized as a composer as well as an instrumentalist; his *Sonny's Club* and *Leapin' and Lopin'* are Blue Note classics. Freddie Redd, another pianist, is remembered, if at all, for a fine album of jazz-and-junk drama, *The Connection*, first performed in 1959 by New York's Living Theatre. The other two composers in question, Kenny Dorham and Hank Mobley, are better known respectively as exponents of the trumpet and the tenor saxophone, their reputations established when Dorham played alongside Charlie Parker and Mobley became the second horn in the Miles Davis Quintet.

There are probably quite a few people who could conceive of such a project, but it takes someone of John Zorn's qualities — which include general enthusiasm, scholarship, technical excellence and wide-open emotional responses — to carry it through. Lewis and Frisell get equal billing on the jacket, but the whole project bears the stamp of the irrepressible imagination which most recently took Zorn to triumphs with his album of music by Ennio

## JAZZ

John Zorn/George Lewis/Bill Frisell  
*News for Lulu* (HAR Art CD 6005)  
Andy Sheppard Introductions in the Dark (Artiles AN 8742)

Morricone, and the remarkable extended piece titled "Spillane".

In his sleeve note, the *New York Times* critic Peter Watrous makes an apt comparison between the formats and methods of this group and the Jimmy Guiffre Trio of the late Fifties, which also featured a saxophone-trombone-guitar lineup. The comparison is given added point by the fact that Lewis employs a range of instrumental gestures as broad as that of Guiffre's trombonist, Bob Brookmeyer, and by the knowledge that Frisell's most important studies were done with Jim Hall, Guiffre's guitarist. But there, beyond the fact that both groups were able to call upon remarkable skills of instant interplay, the similarities end: Zorn's trio certainly displays none of the nostalgic folkiness which gave the Guiffre group its signature and its not inconsiderable popularity.

Such a project would be worthless if it merely recreated the old times without telling us anything new. What Zorn, Lewis and Frisell bring out is the surprising emotional variety and melodic properties of these composers' works — qualities which often lay buried beneath the somewhat dour and astringent atmosphere of the post-bop blowing sessions for which they were devised. Pieces such as Clark's "Melody for C" and Dorham's "Ventura Dance" stand revealed as charming and durable tunes, rather than simply vehicles for improvisation.

There are 73 minutes of music here, devoted to 17 tunes; three of which are repeated in versions recorded at the William festival two days after the basic studio session took place in Lucerne. That makes 20 tracks altogether, at an average of about three and a half minutes per tune; these boys don't hang about, and not for a moment does the tension drop or the attention waver. Individually, the players are superlative. Zorn, whose style is based on the appealingly coarsened Parkerisms of such obscure second-division bebop altoists as Clarence "C" Sharpe and Ernie Henry, plays throughout with fire and finesse. Lewis, a virtuoso, seems constantly to be in two places at once, blowing tailgate bass figures and slippery bebop commentary. Frisell is, as usual, a wonder, producing mellow organ chords on Dorham's "Blue Minor" and a delicious backwoods-soul introduction to the studio version of Mobley's "Punk in Deep Freeze". Collectively, the ease with which they play contrapuntal games on motifs extracted from the themes is a constant delight, and their sheer zest ensures that the music never



Sounds with a fine distinction: Andy Sheppard (left) has made a nice record, John Zorn has made a great one

becomes an academic exercise.

*News for Lulu* will, I believe, come to be seen as one of the key jazz recordings of the Eighties, summarizing many of the virtues of a problematic age. It may not describe a possible future, but it certainly makes the present seem more tolerable.

Will we still be listening to Andy Sheppard's second album in, say, 20 years' time? Will it tell us that something special was going on in British jazz in the late Eighties? Whatever posterity's verdict may be, *Introductions in the Dark* provides further evidence that Sheppard is an improviser with the confidence to blend borrowed vocabularies into a convincing language.

John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter are his instrumental models, but the shadow which hangs most heavily over this album — and particularly "Romantic Conversations" (between a Dancer and a Drum), the suite which occupies the whole of the first side — is that of Pharoah Sanders, Coltrane's sometime protégé, who blended the

accents of North Africa and Japan with Coltrane's devotional mood and thus can be accounted an early pioneer of what we now call world music.

"Conversations" opens with an African-style sequence for bamboo flute and percussion before diving into a variety of vamps, mostly Latin-flavoured, which provide the backdrop for the solos. Besides the impressive leader, who makes a good job of adapting Shorter's febrile obliqueness to his own, less enigmatic purposes, the vibraphonist Orphy Robinson (a certain future star) and the pianist Dave Buxton leave their marks, the latter with a punchy passage which trades usefully in the jolting rhythmic abruptness of salsa. Pete Maxfield, the band's bassist, and Simo Gore, its deft drummer, keep the impetus going, their sound perfectly captured and balanced by a fine recording.

One should probably blame the album's producer, Steve Swallow (best known as Gary Burton's long-time bassist), for the comparative disappointment of the second side. "Rebecca's Glass Slippers" is lively enough, making intelligent use of

synthesizer colourings in a format which hints at fusion music without constraining the improvisers, but thereafter the side slides downhill. Sheppard switches from tenor to soprano for the rather insipid ballad "Forbidden Fruit", and stays with the straight horn for the self-consciously perky "Optics", which aims for the hypnotic townships groove associated with Dollar Brand but — despite an interesting guitar solo by Chris Watson — doesn't really carry the necessary conviction.

In the end, one cannot avoid the harsh judgement that while a Herman Leonard cover photograph — all dramatic shadows and frozen cigarette smoke — may impress the readers of *The Face* and *The Wire*, it does not by itself turn the subject into an artist of the stature of a Hank Mobley or a Wayne Shorter. Sheppard himself surely knows that original thought is what counts, even when the subject is an inherited tradition. And that is the crucial difference between *Introductions in the Dark*, a nice record, and *News for Lulu*, a great one.

Richard Williams

# Modestly magical

## ROCK

XTC Oranges and Lemons  
(Virgin V 2581)  
Jimi Hendrix Experience  
Radio One (Castle  
Communications CCSLP 212)

Like a hyperactively clever but gauche adolescent, there was always something rather forced and comically awkward about XTC when they first ran their flag up the New Wave pole. For many years their music functioned like a high performance car without the synchronism. Now, however, as they enter the second decade of a moderately distinguished career on the sidelines of English rock, they have acquired one or two social graces, and with *Oranges and Lemons* seem finally to have learnt the art of putting their second imaginations to use without sounding as if they are showing off all the time.

Since the release of *Skylarking* in 1986 the group, which now comprises Andy Partridge, Colin Moulding and Dave Gregory, has spent part of its time recording a second album of eccentric, Sixties-influenced psychedelic themes under the nom de guerre of the Dukes of Stratosphear. The mood of those sessions seems to have spilled over on to *Oranges and Lemons*, which opens with a piece of unabashed post-Prince psychedelia called "Garden of Earthly Delights" and then works its way with grand, swirling intensity through a magical mystery tour of English pop in the Eighties.

"King for a Day" echoes the Tears for Fears song "Everybody Wants the Rule of the World"; the failed single, "Mayor of Simpleton", is an intellectual version of Squeeze; "Across This Antheap" with its eastern inflections counterpointed by a heavy backbeat would sit comfortably on a Shriekback album. Which is not to suggest that XTC has copied any of those acts, so much as it is an indication of the common heritage from which so much of English pop now derives.

That heritage is, of course, still dominated by the Beatles, and *Oranges and Lemons*, with its literate lyrics and bouncy harmonies set against ambitious, multi-layered arrangements, toothing horn fanfares and martial drumbeats, is peculiarly reminiscent of the era of doxy love and Sergeant Pepper's *Lovely Hearts Club Band*.

At its best, as on the genuinely affecting melody and oodles of accompaniment of "Merely a Man", it sounds like a gloriously volatile compound of intelligence and exuberance. At its worst it can seem hopelessly overwrought, as on the baroque "Cynical Days". It is certainly an intriguing album born of mature consideration, but it can occasionally appear, as in the throwaway

Wings pastiche "Poor Skeleton Steps Out", to be a lot of work for a modest result.

A new cache of Jimi Hendrix recordings has surfaced. *Radio One* is a collection of material taken from five BBC radio sessions recorded during 1967, two of which were broadcast on *Saturday Club* on the old Light Programme, before *Radio One* was even constituted. The album features the original Experience — Mitch Mitchell on drums and Noel Redding on bass — whacking energetically through various Hendrix standards ("Foxy Lady", "Hey Joe", "Stone Free", "Purple Haze", "Fire", "Burning of the Midnight Lamp) together with a raft of much more offbeat and sometimes off-colour material.

The performances are distinguished by a careless flamboyance that has all but disappeared in the hi-tech music world of today. For this was a time of extravagant improvisation, made possible, in part, by the primitive studio techniques of the period. Hendrix would have been no less inebriated at the idea of playing in strict tempo with a click track than today's musicians would be at the thought of using the last five minutes of recording time for the purpose of making up a jingle on the spot. "Radio One Theme" is literally that, a piece of instantly-cooked nonsense which, purely because of its novelty, has been placed rather insensitively as the second track on this album.

Some of the jams, too, are less than enthralling after the first hearing, for instance Muddy Waters' "Catfish Blues" (which is revealed here as an obvious inspiration for the later recording of "Voodoo Chile"), and Willie Dixon's "Hoochie Coochie Man", which boasts a wobbly slide guitar contribution from Alexis Korner. Likewise the versions of Leiber and Stoller's "Hound Dog" and "Hear My Train A-Comin'", which are interrupted by over-enthusiastic party noises.

But there are other treats, such as a rip-roaring version of the Beatles' "Day Tripper", an amphetamine whiplash through Howlin' Wolf's "Killing Floor", and a superlative jam on Curtis Knight's "Drivin' South", that have more staying power.

Also of more than passing interest are the versions of "Love or Confusion" (great until the instrumental section, when it is confusion which reigns) and "Wait Until Tomorrow" (neatly done with a few embellishments), songs which Hendrix never performed live.

Patchy, irreverent, and unpredictable, *Radio One* is a valuable slice of history and a testament to the free-ranging spirit of a great rock musician who never gave up thinking on his feet.

David Sinclair

# Variations on a sublime theme

Three years ago, Sviatoslav Richter gave a performance in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw of Beethoven's Diabelli Variations. Such was his power to compel — through the tireless variety of his recreation of Beethoven's metamorphoses of allusion, parody and meditation — that scarcely a cough or breath was to be heard when the recital was transferred to disc.

This live performance has the consistent impetus and the sense of regeneration through second-by-second response which could never be matched in a studio recording. One can feel Richter taking the temperature through each stage of the theme's transformation. He prepares and fertilizes the ground for what is to come; he starts, confirms and draws together, from the tiny mirror images of the earliest variations to the Cathartics of the final Arietta. The theme itself is given out with mischief and a slight air of impatience — and then the magic begins. At the fifth, Richter is off at a trot, the tips of his fingers scenting out the way forward to the virtual vanishing of the theme at No 12 and the vortex of activity which forms its central pivot. As soon as the two halves are placed in opposition in the contrasting, canonic variation, a stillness and translucency transforms his playing. From then on, disguise takes over: an audacious Leporello variation leads to a piano exercise of manic correctness, a sublime Bachian fugue and a penultimate Fuga of harsh white light.

It is this fusion of intellectual stamina with musical imagination which characterizes Brendel's late Schubert, too. Stephen Pettit

## CLASSICAL

Beethoven: Diabelli Variations  
Sviatoslav Richter (Philips CD 422 416-2)  
Schubert: Sonata in C Minor  
D958/Moments musicaux  
Alfred Brendel (Philips CD 422 078-2)  
Beethoven/Liszt: Symphonies 1 & 2 Cyprien Katsaris (Teldec CD 243 661-2)  
Schumann: Waldszene/Kinderzenen/Sonata No 1  
Vladimir Ashkenazy (Decca CD 421 290-2)  
Schumann: Arabeske/Faschingschwank  
Stanislav Bunin (DG CD 427 315-2)  
Debussy: Préludes, Volume 2  
Michelangeli (DG CD 427 391-2)

recently welcomed Brendel's A Major Sonata: now the C Minor, D958 has appeared with a similarly robust and lucid grasp of the work's long, searching spans of writing. Brendel's nervously-wrought dialogue between the hands, especially in the chromatic developmental passages of the first movement, sharpens the music's sense of dislocation here. Even in the Sonata's still centre, the contrapuntal toughness of its variation enables him to build up a gradual crescendo of dramatic intensity to the extraordinary coda.

Do not be deceived into regarding the *Moments musicaux* as mere fillers. I found them by far the more revealing performances of the entire disc, and shall return to them time and time again. There is a sense of waiting and listening in the A flat piece, created by the potency of Brendel's repeated note in the first minor episode, tolling away into the return of the theme and signalling the feeling of anticipation which never really leaves the work.



Stamina and imagination: Alfred Brendel plays late Schubert with a robust and lucid grasp

By contrast with this and the teeth-gritting rhythmic tauntness of the fifth, the third and fourth are treated with a beguiling minimalism. The tiny F Minor, in particular, seems more tightly unified than ever before.

Expansion and contraction co-exist in the gargantuan transcriptions of Beethoven's symphonies which Liszt made while staying in a monastery no Monte Mario. He wanted to push the instrument to the limits of its expressive capabilities; and it is precisely the sense of effort, of physical traversal, which makes their performance so exciting. Cyprien Katsaris, beginning at the beginning, tackles the First head-on. A helpfully warm recording acoustic encourages him to peel out the high linking and interlacing woodwind lines, using them to

illuminate the denser passages of "scoring". He actually draws the ear back to the felicity of Beethoven's orchestration in these early symphonies: the Andante becomes a little invention of Mozartian proportions; the Finale a Haydnian romp of gurgling inner scales.

The slow movement of the Second Symphony, with its broad, lush phrases, can sound a little lumpy on what is essentially a percussion instrument. But if one momentarily years for the sustaining power of how on string, Katsaris's skill in contrasting and blending different registers through its long variations compensates in full.

Nothing could be further away from the intensive study and analysis behind this highly entertaining Colossus of the piano repertoire than Schumann's little *Kinderzenen*. Their nursery titles

were not intended programmatically, but rather as guides to interpretation: Ashkenazy plays as if from first-hand experience. His "Child falling asleep" is played with the tenderness of flesh and blood — indeed, rather as if his mother had been singing the last song of *Frauenliebe und Leben* to him as a lullaby. The miniatures vacillate between the sleepy and the boisterous. The soft focus of Ashkenazy's playing is emphasized by Decca's somewhat cloying acoustics: the clangorous might of the "Important Event" and the rough ride of the "Knight of the hobby horse" are exacerbated by it.

Partly for this reason, I prefer the interpretation of the young Moscow-born pianist Stanislav Bunin on DG. The clearer air never threatened to suffocate these miniatures, and Bunin's insights tend to

be sharper, more wonder-filled. If Ashkenazy's approach is ultimately reassuring, Bunin's is shadowed by the uncertainties of a hyper-sensitive dream-child. His opening is always drawn, his "Hasche-Mann" lively with startling shadows and half lights. It is Bunin whose rhythmic acuity captures the unnervingly wild oscillation of the hobby horse; it is he, too, whose characteristically intense quality of listening finds tones of voice and silence in the solemnity of the final "The poet speaks" which Ashkenazy never quite uncovers.

But Bunin's is not as satisfyingly balanced a recital. Twenty minutes shorter than Ashkenazy's, it is completed with a fiery *Faschingschwank aus Wien* of thrilling and properly Schumannian extremes, and the little Op 18 Arabeske.

Almost as elusive a presence as Bunin on the London concert platform is the figure of Michelangeli; and it seems fitting that an artist who frequently shuns the stage should confide to disc the very works which Debussy wished to be performed only to the smallest of audiences.

This latest release of the second volume of *Préludes*, though, is disappointing. We are given short measure both in time and in interpretative space, with a mere 39 minutes of strangely flat, generally uninspired performances. There are rockets of virtuosity enough in his "Feux d'artifice", and a moment of rare wonder in the calm, glowing chords of "Canope". Too often, though, Michelangeli sounds reluctant, or merely perverse.

Hilary Finch

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## BOOKS

# Head in search of a soul

Martin Hammond sees in John Thorn's autobiography an educational lament

John Thorn retired from the headmastership of Winchester College in 1985. Before Winchester, he had been headmaster of Repton, a master at Clifton, and a boy at St Paul's (in wartime exile). Although described as an autobiography, this book is largely about independent schools, more particularly about Winchester. The autobiographical bits — childhood, school, war service, unfinished novels, Cambridge — are lightly and pleasantly told, with an evidently genuine self-deprecation that runs throughout. (Thorn presents himself, credibly enough, as the worst gunnery control officer in the Navy.) But the real interest of the book lies in its exploration of the changing ethos in major independent schools in the last 30 years, and of the educational issues that now confront those who believe passionately in the preservation of civilized values. Here there is good, challenging stuff.

It is hard to think that the unregenerate Repton of the 1960s was the right school for Thorn. He was young, cultured (an historian with strong leanings towards English), idealistic, full of vaguely liberal reforming zeal. It was steeped in a complacent games-dominated mediocrity, isolated, provincial, brutal and dull: congenial spirits on the staff were rare, and the philistines won — there was a champagne party held by some members of the Common Room when Thorn announced that he was leaving for Winchester. Most headmasters have to suffer some crassly interfering governor, but Thorn's experience of the grotesque dominance of Lord Fisher of Lambeth as the president of the Repton governing body can still make the rest of us shudder in sympathy.

Winchester was different. In 1968 Thorn found, as most have, a school of seductive charm ("the most beautiful in the land, perhaps in the world"), with a different and probably more obstinate set of faults — higher-order faults, but obstinate because

THE ROAD TO WINCHESTER  
By John Thorn  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95

rooted in a peculiarly self-regarding conceit of Winchester's superiority in all things to all other schools. Much that was the object of earnest endeavour in other schools could be regarded, with remarkable superciliousness, as "unwieldy" — O and A levels, for example (let alone GCSE), as well as the specialist teaching of English in the sixth form or the teaching of geography at all (these were not regarded as "gritty" subjects: grittiness apparently inhered in classics and mathematics, and not much else).

Thorn's account of his seven years at Repton serves to illustrate the extent to which independent schools have changed in the last quarter-century. Repton included, gone, for the most part, are the ghostly old games ethos, the lowly and dispensable position accorded to the arts, the faith-destroying regime of compulsory chapel, the lack of concern for boys as individuals with their own dignity. Gone too, for the most part, is the "scholarly but emotionally arid" approach in which Winchester took such pride.

There were many issues that vexed and sometimes divided headmasters in the Sixties and Seventies. Drugs, pop culture, political threats, curricular pressures, the exquisite dilemmas of religion in schools — to all these Thorn brings clear analysis and suave doubt. In all that matters he is on the side of the angels. He is a passionate and doubting angel. His passion has the strength of modesty, and his doubts contrast well with the brass certainty of less reflective headmasters. Thorn's own certainty is that schools should be, above all, exciting places, in which happiness and creativity should be important values. Such liberal beliefs were not universal in the



Sixties; and now again he runs counter to comfortable orthodoxy in his lament that the brave new education of the Eighties has no unifying centre or soul.

The battle for the arts was fought over many years, against some shamefully strong opposition, and largely won in the drama — those integrity subjects that allow a dangerous individuality of expression — are firmly established in the fabric of independent schools, and the quality of performance or production is inspiring, not only at Winchester. The battle for the expansion of science and technology was won in the Seventies and Eighties (Thorn wryly observes that head-

masters "made all the right noises" — they then built some of the right buildings). The philistines and the pedants are in retreat, and today's curriculum bears very little resemblance to that of the 1960s.

Is all well, then? No, it is not. In schools we were once prisoners of the past; now we are in danger of becoming prisoners of a bleakly functional concept of the future. The old "liberal education" had its faults, and has had its day; but nothing has taken its place, no system that can give intelligent pupils, especially in the sixth form, a unified and coherent understanding of European Christian civilization.

The bright new initiatives, the humming departmental A level factories, are situated in what

Thorn calls the educational suburbs. The city centre, once occupied by the classics and the King James Bible, stands empty, with the new barbarians (some operating out of Elizabeth House) massing at the gates. To repopulate the centre, Thorn argues, we need to create and implement a new philosophy of general education in the sixth form, additional to and distinct from the specialist A levels (AS levels and the like are no sort of answer, because addressing a different problem). It can be done (Thorn points an idealistic finger in the right direction), and if the educational gains of the last quarter-century are to outweigh the losses and form part of a system of permanent value, it must be done. An empty centre cannot hold.

## Knocked off a wordy perch

POETRY

Robert Nye

A friend, walking once with Dylan Thomas along the shore of the Welsh fishing village where he made his home, pointed to a cormorant drying its wings on a rock, and asked the poet why the bird was perched in such a tortuous position. "It's because everyone expects a cormorant to stand that way," said Thomas.

Now, Dylan Thomas's own poetic stance had much in common with his joking vision of the cormorant's. He came early to love the difficult for good form's sake, favouring a simulated intensity, a confusion of depth and thickness. It might be thought that there is something adolescent about this, and indeed there is, but then Thomas cannot really be blamed for the facts of his own life, which include the drawback that most of his work dates in origin from his adolescence, having been written down first in notebooks which he kept before the age of 20, and then written up later in the interests of what he called "being many-sounding-minded" — which is to say, conformantly self-crippled with verbal complications.

If there is any development in Thomas it is from adolescence to childhood, as the new edition of his *Collected Poems 1934-1953*, edited by Walford Davies and Ralph Maud (Dent, £15), only too clearly shows by placing each poem in its biographical context. "Fern Hill" and "Poem in October" represent a change, it could be claimed, in that they regress with some charm from the world of *bagpipe-breasted ladies in the deadwood* and other boldly pubescent heroes to the world of being young and easy under the apple boughs, and having the sun and the moon and the sea as well-brought-up Christopher-Robinson-type playfellows. Despite the glossy surface and fetching rhythms of these later anthology pieces, however, the suspicion remains that, if anything Thomas wrote is going to survive, it will be a handful of those painfully pentametered iambs which he ground out of masturbatory guilt and similar unpromising subject matter in the early days, when he had himself cast as "the Rimbaud of Cwmwdonkin Drive". Is that enough? It was not enough for him:

Were vaguenesses enough  
and the sweet lies plenty,  
The hollow words could bear all  
And cure me of ill.

Those lines imply more self-knowledge than Thomas's admirers commonly give him credit for. This comment knew that its poet wouldn't do.

Charles Causley's revised *Collected Poems 1951-1975* (Macmillan, £7.95 paperback) and his

new volume *A Field of Visions* (Macmillan, £10.95 or £4.95 paperback) confirm that he has no living rival in his strongest suit, that of the ballad. He writes a jaunty, sprightly kind of verse, characterized by hyperbole and high spirits:

As I walked down by the river  
Down by the frozen fen  
I saw the grey cathedral  
With the eyes of a child of ten.  
O the railway arch is smoky  
As the flying Scot goes by  
And but for the Education Act  
Go Jumper Cross and I.

That is from Causley's first book, and I do not think he has surpassed it. Indeed, there comes a sense from these two volumes that he has done little else but repeat, with flair, the same brassy note over and over. Compare him with a poet who is in several respects his master, Roy Campbell, and you see that what is missing in Causley is more than a few teeth and some fits of bad temper. Campbell's romanticism is informed by an awareness that it might be a bit late in the day for this sort of thing. Causley's seems bland beside it. Campbell is also at his sharpest as a translator, where Causley keeps his Muse monotonously at home, despite frequent references to his wartime adventures in the Navy. All the same, I have probably now said more against him than the case deserves. He is a decent maker of light verses, with few cormorant ambitions, and some of his work may survive.

I wish I liked Patricia Beer's *Collected Poems* (Corgi, £16.95) as much as I like the prickly and amusing introduction which she has written for it. Her mind, as veiled in the verse, seems uncritically colourless, lacking in edges, with a result that too many of the poems are just a blur of perceptions, easy to read but even easier to forget. Her prose, by admitting more malice, has a less literary honesty ("I met Montale briefly... Dylan Thomas had just died" and "a greater number of poets than was quite practicable were claiming past intimacy with him").

Still, "Four Spells" (based on a medieval cure for scalds) catches some of the liveliness that is undoubtedly in her.

Two angels came from the West  
The one brought desire, the other  
brought frost

Out prude! In lust!  
In the name of the Father, Son  
and Holy Ghost.

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NEW YORK POST

DOCTOR'S

## Defender of the wrong faith

William Jackson

LIDDELL HART AND  
THE WEIGHT  
OF HISTORY

By John J. Mearsheimer  
Brassey's Defence Publishers,  
£15.95

Conventional wisdom suggests that Liddell Hart was a prophet without honour in his own country. The popular view, largely based on his own *Memoirs*, published in 1965, is that he advocated the development of armoured divisions and the tactics of the *Blitzkrieg*, but that the British and French military policy-makers refused to listen to his sage advice, whereas Hitler's generals became his ardent disciples and put his theories into practice in the decisive defeat of France in 1940. John Mearsheimer, an American, overturns this vision of Britain's self-appointed and self-applauded military guru with well-substantiated evidence in this extremely readable book.

He poses four questions: how valid were Liddell Hart's ideas? Had he really so little influence in the British establishment? Did his writings make such an impact upon the thinking of the German generals? And how did he manage to rebuild his credibility after being proved so wrong? None of Mearsheimer's answers will please Liddell Hart's admirers.

In the early 1920s Liddell Hart was certainly amongst tank enthusiasts, like Fuller and Martel, believing in the offensive use of armoured forces. By the time he had become the military correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and then *The Times* in the 1930s, he had revised his views, concluding that tanks and mechanization of armies would make offensive operations impracticable.

This belief, and his lack of confidence in British generals, led to his theories of "the indirect approach", formulated to obviate another blood-bath on the Continent. In the run-up to the Second World War, he opposed the renewal of Britain's Continental commitment, advocating appeasement of Hitler, and leaving the French army, which he believed was far superior to the newly formed *Wehrmacht*, to deter German aggression on land. Britain would threaten to cripple the Third Reich with naval blockade and air bombardment. As late as May 1940, after the German *Panzer* divisions had broken through the Ardennes, his articles in *The Times* still showed an unshaken confidence in the superiority of defence, but the

outcome on the battlefield left his reputation in tatters.

Liddell Hart's claim that he was an outsider, and that his advice was ignored by Whitehall, was simply not true. As a respected Fleet Street journalist, he had access to the most important policy-makers — military and civilian — and he was the confidant of Chamberlain and Hore-Belisha.

His belief that leading German exponents of the *Blitzkrieg* were his disciples was equally fallacious. Generals, who were creating the *Wehrmacht* for aggressive purposes, were hardly likely to pay much attention to a denigrator of offensive action.

The most damning part of Mearsheimer's study is his analysis of how Liddell Hart resurrected his lost reputation as a prescient military thinker. He was allowed to interview the defeated German generals, and to produce his best-seller, *The Other Side of the Hill*. This was a "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" type of exercise. It was not difficult for him to put words into the Germans' mouths, suggesting that the origins of the *Blitzkrieg* could be traced back to himself, in return for favourable accounts of their own actions for posterity.

Mearsheimer provides hard evidence of Liddell Hart's implantation of laudatory references to his own works in the English editions of Guderian's *Panzer Leader* and *The Rommel Papers*, both of which he edited. In Mearsheimer's view, Liddell Hart's own *Memoirs* are "a blatant distortion of the historical record".

The moral of this story is perhaps that if you want to read history in your own favour, do not leave a library full of your life's literary work and correspondence for future historians to sift and analyse. It is now up to the Liddell Hart supporters' club to rebut Mearsheimer's findings.

Parisian transsexuals, Alain Robbe-Grillet, taserdemy, Borges, *Blade Runner*, Colchester oysters, Edwin Lutyns, Jeffrey Bernard, copulation among rabbits, rude French slang: these are just a few of the subjects to attract this instantly recognizable freudiana pen. Here is the idiosyncratic tone of voice in full flow. "In English, 'clever' carries somewhat pejorative connotations: one is led to recall clever Dicks, smart-alecks (alikes? It's graver, closer to the snout and Tru-Gel tenor of the truly wide boy), or if you're of an arty bent to think of the flashy gibberish of punsters and wits, or glossily superficial, minutely representational illustrators (those who lack 'depth' and 'feeling', who don't get to the 'heart' of, right inside their subjects)."

Jonathan Meades is unique: a younger English writer who does not object to being considered an intellectual, and flaunts his cleverness. Hipster and highbrow, elitist intellectual, he has pretty well invented his own universe, with its mind-revolving combinations of offal and football, architecture and howls against cultural yobbishness, and other ingredients to make the nervous shudder. He is a

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

#### FICTION

*The Book of Sal*, by David Brooks (Faber, £3.99) Eclectic collection of short stories by emerging Australian writer dives into the realms of the intricate and erotic to produce an eerie blend of fantasy and reality.

*Brother George*, by George Eliot (Virago, £3.50) An unprepossessing young man becomes the unsuspecting target of nemesis in this long, neglected novel. A very pendant to the author's works.

*Eight Months on Ghazal Street*, by Hilary Mantel (Penguin, £3.99) Bored ex-pat wife finds herself embroiled in middle-eastern intrigue. Vivacious prose and a gripping story line make this a tingly murder mystery.

*Fairy and Folk Tales of Ireland*, edited by W.E. Yeats (Collins Smythe, £4.95) Menstrual leprochauns, distraught banshees, and socially disadvantaged changelings leap and bound through Yeats's cheerful and exhaustive folklore compendium.

*Palomino*, by Elizabeth Jolley (Penguin, £4.99) Stylish foray into the dark thrill of memory that dominates the relationship between two Australian women. Stark prose and bleak humour make for a novel that is kind but never comfortable.

*The Scouring of the White Horse*, by Thomas Hughes (Alan Sutton, £5.95) The author of *Tom Brown's School Days* in more

## Clever Dick's universe

PAPERBACKS

Philip Howard

PETER KNOWS WHAT  
DICK LIKES  
By Jonathan Meades  
Paladin, £6.99

Sixties Juvenal with jokes in bad taste and foul language about the modern world. He can be very funny. He reaches into parts of society that might make black comedians with thinner skins puke. Like all ambitious and clever writers, he can fall over the top in pseudery.

This is the first publication of collected pieces that he has written

for newspapers and magazines, largely in the Eighties. It includes a number of short stories, and the screenplay for the film *Millie's Problem*, which was commissioned for Channel 4, and then rejected by them for being "too bawdy". In his writing he tries to avoid the drear consensus of news values, the primacy of politics and public life, the formulaic division of hard and soft topics — these are the inventions of commonplace creatives, and are to be resisted with resourceful bloody-mindedness.

So too are functional prose (which of course serves but the basest of functions), the confusion of fact with truth (which is fluid, infinite, and on no account to be prefixed by the definite article), the wretched conviction that exotism starts a thousand miles away. "Nothing could be wider of the mark: exotism begins at home. It lurks all about us. You need only cock your head one degree from its norm to sniff the fœtid richness and gynes the hair beneath the clothes. Cocking my head, that's what I've been up to, mostly." A head-cocker, original; and clever — that's our restaurant critic.

and stirring odyssey. *Yawer Fiesta*, by José María Arguedas (Quartet, £5.95) Intriguing account of clashing cultures and values in the Peru of the 1930s combines masterful description with painstaking research.

#### NON-FICTION

*Battles in Britain, 1066-1746*, by William Seymour (Sidgwick & Jackson, £9.95) Compilation of two hardback volumes; an informative handbook, including narrative accounts and analyses of battles, guides, photographs, and plans.

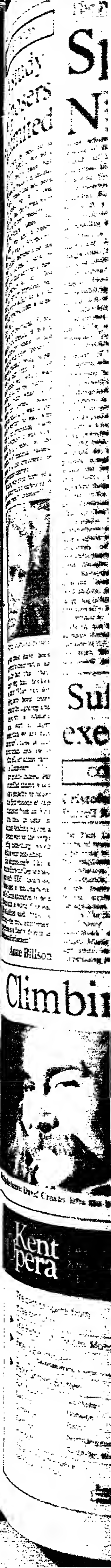
*Concertos and Choral Works*, by Donald Francis Tovey (Oxford, £8.95) Composers' and conductors' recipe book for music-lovers on 50 well-known concertos. Based upon programme notes made by this first-class pianist, composer, conductor, and writer.

*Leonardo On Painting*, edited by Martin Kemp, selected and translated by Martin Kemp and Margaret Walker (Yale, £5.95) An anthology of writings by Leonardo da Vinci, including some of his personal documents. Together with illustrations from Leonardo's paintings these provide an insight into the mind and methods of the Old Master. *Oreodour, Massacre and Aftermath*, by Robin Mackness (Corgi, £3.50) Mackness no doubt intends to re-make his fortune with this dramatic title. In fact, what lies behind it is an attempt to explain a horrifying event in wartime France.

#### QUICK GUIDE



sanguine mood for this spirited account of Berkshire's 19th-century folk revelry under the shadow of the White Horse. *The Spenser*, by Jules Renard (Robin Clark, £5.95) An indifferent, parasitic poet convinces bourgeois Paris that he is a genius, only to be tumbled by ambition. This perverse 19th-century confession has lost none of its melancholy appeal. *Winter in Jerusalem*, by Blanche d'Alpuget (Black Swan, £3.99) The polyglot confusion and insecurity of modern Israel deftly captured in an unusual





THE ARTS

TELEVISION

# A study of posers unlimited

The credits were the best bit of *Style Monsters* (BBC2). We were informed that Bill's wife had been the work of Niall Unlabeled, that Richard Johnson had not been playing himself but a "Food Trendie", and that the extras were supposed to have been "posers".

This "anti-black comedy" for the Nineties was also a poser. Was it real or was it *Memorex*. Probably neither, because it seems to reflect an old-fashioned idea of lifestyle rather than anyone's personal observations on life. This might have been the intention, but it gave the whole affair an air of being twice removed from a semblance of reality.

Ulla and her boyfriend, Felix, dabbled in art, dressed in black and lived in a grey studio. While not mingling with other "posers", they were gradually being separated from each other by the spiky, punkish wall which was erecting itself across the centre of their studio. Since what Felix furnished they owned, looked spiky and punkish, it was arguable as to whether the wall was simply a self-generating room divider, or whether it was supposed to be a symbol of the intractability of material values, perhaps, or of the crassness of metaphors made concrete.

The ending was even more of a poser. Ulla and Felix touched each other up and cried "Corbush!" in



Food Trendie? Johnson poses in a way which could have been either a reference to his cat, or an allusion to the fact that their machine for living had broken down. A shout of "Miss van der Rosh!" might have been more appropriate, since the lighting and camera work were a studied pastiche of the sort of lager commercial in which we are told that "less is more". Less, in this case, probably meant less, but it was difficult to tell, let alone care.

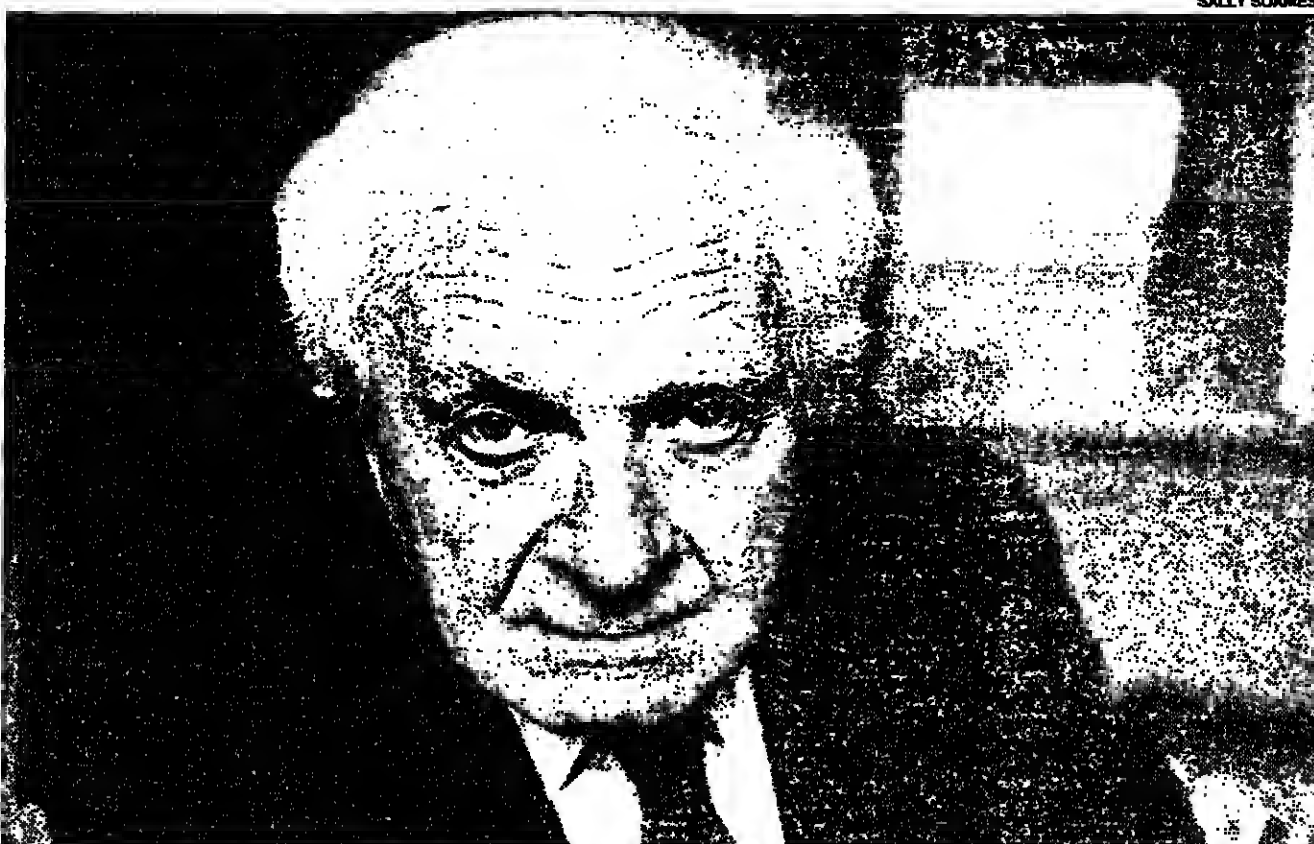
A *Quiet Conspiracy* (ITV) started off very quietly indeed, but ended with a muted thump when Joss Ackland's cassette recorder exploded. The first episode of this four-part, adapted from an Eric Ambler novel, took its time in establishing that Ackland edited a newsletter which was on the verge of publishing something which someone didn't want published. It looked depressingly like a product of the BBC school, complete with a multinational cast. The villains appeared to be a Norwegian and a white Ciroca. But, as Ackland said, "this is Strasbourg - the most exciting you get here is a heavy debate in the European Parliament".

Anne Billson

The poet of many talents is 80 on February 28. James Wood traces the career of Sir Stephen Spender

# Spender, the great survivor

SALLY SOAMES



The Truly Great: Sir Stephen Spender has come to seem the last representative of a lost world where literature matters

Nowadays, in our new age of anxiety, the glory of culture is not that it succeeds but that it survives at all. As a result, we have a frenzied reverence for those whose longevity comes to seem a chunk of the very culture they have absorbed and enriched. The marvels and miseries they have witnessed, we experience vicariously through them. Sir Stephen Spender, 80 this month, is such a figure - but with a difference. He has not only survived; he has succeeded too. A poet of distinction and a critic of discrimination, a novelist, a full-time autobiographer and part-time dramatist, co-founder of the magazines *Horizon*, *Encounter* and *Index on Censorship* - it is hard to imagine any other literary activity in which Sir Stephen might have busied himself, short of bookbinding and calligraphy. While those he has known and loved - such as Auden and Isherwood - have died, he has lived on to be known and loved by a public to whom the 1930s is little more than a forgotten romance. To this public he has become one of the friends he describes in his *Journals* as a member of "the special band, the crew of voyagers, who have lived through so much".

Stephen Spender was born in 1909, the son of a well-known liberal journalist. In his autobiography, he describes the atmosphere in which he grew up as one of "belief in progress curiously mingled with apprehension". There was a sense that history's triumphant advances made anything possible; but there was also a feeling that the best times were over - his parents recalled an age before the Great War of golden simplicities. Though he does not make the connection, it seems likely that this early encounter with melancholy paradox helped to qualify Spender for life in the 1930s as an analyst of that thrilling and threatening decade. For it was in the Thirties that history hoisted its flag of hope - usually red in colour, and flying somewhere over Moscow - only to pull it down again with the rise of Fascism and the outbreak of war. Spender, who had revolutionary sympathies for much of that time, caught this tastering sense of hope and anticipatory sadness in his most famous poem, "The Truly Great", a meditation on those few who have made large significances out of history. "I think continually of those who were truly great."

Certainly, by the time Spender reached Oxford, his belief in necessary change was already forming. On a channel crossing, at the age of 17, he had happened to sit next to the poet Sir Henry Newbolt. They had discussed poets they admired and had

mentioned one name in particular. Spender opined, "Well, I can't like the work of a poet who has a title." (It says much for his quizzical humility that he recalled this "gaffe with the power to raise a ghost" in 1983, when he heard of his knighthood.) It was at Oxford, of course, that he met Auden. His description of his brutal introduction to poetry at the hands of this gawky genius has become a classic. Summoned to Auden's darkened Christchurch rooms and subjected to random interrogation - "What poets do you like? ... Him! ... He's up the wrong pole!" - Spender was nevertheless accepted as one of "the Group", Auden's magic circle of those who would go on to people the world of literature. All his life, Spender has bounced himself off Auden, using Auden to define what he sees - perhaps unfairly - as his own literary limitations.

With Auden's fierce example of how to storm Parnassus always strong in his mind, he has tended to be too hard on his smaller, more delicate climb upwards. His *Journals*

are laced with self-reproach: "Being a minor poet is like being minor royalty, and no one, as a former lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret once explained to me, is happy as that." His *Collected Poems*, reissued this month by Faber, reveal an English melancholic, as a lyrical net with which to catch the living and dying moment.

He blames other work, like journalism and criticism, for "elbowing its way in and pushing poetry aside". But the point, of course, is that even as Spender reproaches himself for "failing" as a poet, he is invoking standards which his efforts in other areas of literary life have helped to maintain, perhaps even create. His work on the magazine *Horizon* (1939-1950) made it probably the finest English literary journal of this century; *Encounter*, which he co-founded in 1953, and co-edited until 1967, is still with us, as is the important *Index on Censorship*, which came out of his response, in 1967, to the plight of the Russian dissident Pavel Litvinov. He has worked, in the area of literature, for Unesco, the

European Cultural Association and the Library of Congress in Washington.

Seen over 80 years - though we are not suited to these long perspectives, as he would quickly remind us - his life resembles, one feels, one of those remarkable water-structures which, when you depress one part, swiftly expands in another area. If his poetry is not prospering, he goes off to found a magazine, if his journalism languishes, a book of criticism appears. While men like Auden and Eliot made a religion out of literature, Spender made something softer and wider in scope - perhaps "devotion" is the right word, with all that implies of loyalty and love. As a result, he has come to seem almost the last representative of a lost world where literature - and especially poetry which oozed words - truly matters. Eighty years on, he is that most unfashionable of things, a humanist who believes in the power of culture to survive, succeed and civilize. If this be the record of "minor royalty", reign on...

# Suffering of the aristocracy executed in gruesome detail

## CONCERT

Cristofori Purcell Room

The Park Lane Group's current series of music, from around 1789, is proving to be a mine of trivial, but exquisitely droll nuggets of information. Thursday's concert, for instance, answered a question which many must have asked: which keyboard piece depicts decapitation by guillotine?

It is *The Sufferings of the Queen of France* by Dusek - the Bohemian composer who was under Marie Antoinette's patronage until, in 1788, he sensed an impending problem and moved to

London. He wrote this gruesome little sonnet the year after her execution, taking care to depict every gory detail for the vicarious titillation of his new English aristocratic audiences: the Queen's imprisonment (pathos-laden tune in left hand), the separation from her children (agitated counterpoint), her resignation to her fate (a stiff-upper-lip minuet), the baying rabble (frenetic passagework), the big blade falling (downward glissando), and finally a surprisingly blithe "apoteosis".

Profound historical events often inspire terrible music (consider 1812); this was out bad, and it was delivered with great panache by Christopher Kite on the fortepiano, with David Owen Norris doing a kind of blow-by-

blow commentary. Later, the pair collaborated (Owen Norris rapping a side-drum) on a more bloated piece of pictorial keyboard writing: Frantisek Koczwara's *The Battle of Prague*.

Some real music separated these salon melodramas. Three Haydn trios, all written in 1789, were given able performances by Cristofori (Kite again, with the violinist Catherine Mackintosh and cellist Sebastian Combert). Miss Mackintosh had some uncomfortable moments high up in the quick movements, and the interpretations sometimes lacked vivacity, but Haydn's unexpected modulations and ingenious counterpoints always intrigued the ear.

Richard Morrison

# Beauty and spirit

## DANCE

The Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

lively acting. But George Lane looked less at home in this context. His partnering and his solo dancing are both impressive, but his flamboyant presentation clashes with the home style.

The production, although staged by Peter Wright and designed by Philip Prowse with touring in mind, looks good on the Covent Garden stage: more opulent than

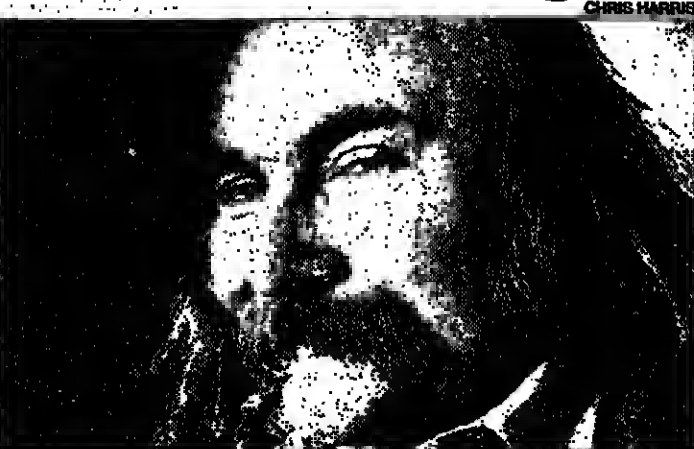
the other Royal Ballet's present version, and in many respects better danced too at the moment. Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet puts out more consistently pleasing tasks, for instance in the six solos for the fairy godmothers, and its supporting dancers generally are full of spirit.

As the bluebird, Kevin O'Hare made a buoyant first entry, but did not sustain that quality in his solo. The American soloist, Bonnie Moore, as his enchanted princess proved disappointingly brittle and vacuous.

But there is much promising young talent coming up in the lower ranks, and some relaxed, authoritative acting from the company's veterans, among whom Anita Landa makes the wicked fairy an interesting, probably gloved old biddy, and there are two contrasted interpretations of the king, Desmond Kelly's proud dignity one night, or Alain Dubrenil's comfortably relaxed informality at another performance.

John Percival

# Climbing out of the pit



Facing the future: David Crosby lifts the lid on his past life

Superstar, drug addict, jailbird: now David Crosby is coming clean, Johnny Black writes

Most Britons with any awareness of David Crosby remember him as the plump, balding, Woodstock hippy, complete with drooping moustache, in the Seventies supergroup, Crosby, Stills and Nash. In the mid-Seventies, when punk briefly interrupted the dinosaur era of rock'n'roll, Crosby faded away in a drizzle of news snippets about his drug arrests.

Now, coming up fast behind Paul Simon and Brian Wilson, Crosby has released a new solo album, *Oh Yes I Can* (A&M), plus a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young album. There's also an autobiography, *Long Time Gone*, to be published by Heinemann on May 15, lifting the lid on his life as pop superstar, drug abuser and jailbird.

In America, Crosby never stopped being news, most of it about his escalating drug addiction, from marijuana and LSD in the Sixties to heroin and freebase cocaine by the late Seventies. (Freebase refines cocaine so that its effects are more powerful and more dangerous.)

"Freebase is the slipperiest, grasiest slope straight to hell," Crosby says. "Emotionally, you're a zombie. Friends died from drug abuse and it meant nothing. When my parents died, from old age, even that meant nothing. That's what I regret most, that they never saw me clean up."

Crosby first found success in the folk-rock group the Byrds. Despite earning millions through his subsequent years with Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young, by the Seventies he was reportedly broke, having "smoked and snorted everything I earned". By the middle of the present decade he had reached what he now describes as "the bottom of the pit" and, after several brushes with the law, Crosby gave himself up in 1985 and spent a year in jail.

While there, his fortunes sank so low that the education of his daughter, Donovan, was paid for by Nash. "In school, kids were showing her newspaper stories about me and saying, 'That's your dad. He's a junkie'."

How could it have happened? Crosby lounges back on the cushions, pushes his fingertips together, making a small cathedral out of his hands. "You don't even know. It creeps up on you. Once, 25 of my dearest friends, including Jackson Browne and Graham Nash, came to my home to beg me to give up. I didn't."

Even now a surprising number of British journalists still think he is the son of Bing. "Worse than that, man, on breakfast television they cut my song in half to go to the weather! How unprofessional, how impolite!"

● Mrs Philippa Kirk, from High Wycombe, is the winner of the *Times*/London Symphony Orchestra competition. She wins a trip to New York for herself and her husband Desmond, and will also meet Michael Tilson Thomas, principal conductor of the LSO at the Orchestra's farewell concert at the Barbican tomorrow.

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## TRAVEL

If Europe's ski resorts want to keep their customers' loyalty, Brian James writes, they should start being more honest about conditions

# Where truth hit the rocks

There are lies, damned lies and snow-depth measurements. The revelation that there now exists a new way of calibrating untruth occurred while looking down the valley at Villars, part of Switzerland's green and pleasant land. Only it was supposed to have been all white.

All around, breath steamed in the mountain air. Not from cold, from fury. According to the snow reports carried in the *Observer* and *The Sunday Times* 24 hours before, there was a tolerable 16in of snow on Villars's lower slopes, and a frolicsome 24in on the upper slopes, and the runs to the resort were "fair".

No reason, then, to hesitate. Villars, after all, is a resort much favoured by the Swiss and long since colonized by British media personalities because of its easy access to Geneva (1 hour 15 minutes) and because its skiing is superb. I dare say.

For what lay before us on this first impression was Villars's vast main ski area below Bretaye, now looking like a giant's beige breakfast bowl from which he had not yet got around to scraping the last of the porridge.

No lifts worked, no live thing moved save two hikers kicking mud off their boots as they waited for the mountain train. What snow existed lay in strips in the shade, crisp, even, but barely 3in deep.

It was better above Bretaye. Two chairs and four T-bars carried crowds to the top stations, where they could choose between two half-mile pistes. It was skiable, slushy and from 8in to a foot thick. But where pistes met they had become footpaths, and there was little fun in the crush to take turns at the fields of moguls, the colour and consistency of wet demerara sugar.

Some of the T-bars took you off along what appeared to be cyclo-cross tracks, chilled mud and nothing more. And some of the routes back made you grateful that these were hired skis kissing the rocks.

Still people skied, hundreds of them picking their way down with the relentless cheerfulness of sea-siding Britons peering out from bus shelters and telling each other they were sure it was letting up. But even the most optimistic did not attempt to ski back to the village.

"We had very good snow at Christmas and great skiing at the New Year. But no signifi-

cant fall since," said Robert Michel, Villars's tourist director. "It has not really been possible to ski back to the village since January 2."

Then why on earth...? "Look, we do not cheat. I will show you the press release. Very detailed... see, it shows zero snow in Villars itself and 30cm on the top slopes. We must not be blamed if all this detail does not get into the newspapers. We cannot say there is no skiing because it would not be true, and it would be very serious."

"In January I had three Englishmen in my office asking me to stop the lifts, close the resort. They said it was dangerous. I think they were trying to get their tour company to pay them back money on the on-snow guarantee. So you see, it is not easy."

"But we try to be honest. And remember that not all reports are provided by us."

Indeed, most of the reports we read are compiled by the Ski Club of Great Britain. The club's Villars representative, Olivia Gordon, explained how they are all volunteers, quite independent, and how they have been helping British skiers in the mountains for absolutely yonks.

Yet how independent is it possible to be when, as she explained, reps are provided with half-board accommodation at one of the better hotels, and given the lift passes by the commune? "We are not hired, and give the skiing situation to the best of our ability. But we don't do our own measuring, we use the tourist office figures. And you can see that no matter how



Too green and pleasant: the ski runs (alt 1500m) between Villars and Bretaye on Thursday

representatives, had been turning handstands trying to compensate, with free tickets to the ice rink, the swimming pool, the fitness centre, the tennis courts, and hastily arranged excursions to cities. But I doubt if that much comforted one family we met, alternating long walks in warm drizzle with games of Scrabble with two bored children, while they contemplated the £2,500 they would already have spent.

An accurate picture of snow conditions may have come too late for them to have cancelled without penalty. But they might have chosen to have saved precious holiday time, plus the considerable extra spending money. They should

certainly have been given the information to make that choice — or to at least pack gear for tennis and hiking.

VERBIER (Quatre Vallées)  
All best slopes closed. Good snow on glacier. Seller's market for rock slides. Hiking, mountain biking, paragliding, barbecues on the terrace, lunch at the Offshore restaurant.

ZERMATT  
Snow-making machines paying off. Good powder and spring snow above 2500m. Many runs closed. Hiking to mountain restaurants on gridded trails. Resort half full.

KLOSTER (Davos)  
Resort packed. Exuberant nightlife. "Probably best conditions in Switzerland." Official avalanche warnings issued. Royals due.

ARLBERG (St Anton, Lech)  
Best snow in Europe. "Not nice" off piste. White flag in good nick. Excellent grooming. One room left in town.

CORTINA (Dolomites)  
"Mama mia!" Thin layer of artificial snow on four short slopes. Cheerful atmosphere. Passagiate in the rain.

Doug Sager

The Times snow reports, compiled from information supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain and the national tourist offices of countries with major skiing tourism, appear on the sports pages each day. Today's reports, page 48.

## It's still a gamble

It has been a switchback of a week, which is now ending up on a high note. A low-moving front from Spain on Monday caused havoc by drawing southerly winds up across the Alps.

This brought heavy rain to many areas, where the warm descending air caused the temperature to rise well above freezing and led to a rapid thaw.

In Austria low-lying resorts such as Kitzbühel, which thus far had done so well, took a beating. The resorts that survived best were the highest. French resorts which were not affected by the thaw and got some much-needed new snow, and yet again the Arlberg, which is leading a charmed life this winter.

Fortunately cooler air and belts of snow followed quickly on the heels of the thaw, so

conditions in neighbouring areas, and changes from day to day, which makes the timing of a holiday and the choice of resort such a gamble.

Now the weather has undergone a change, and the forecast is for colder weather to prevail over the Alps for at least the next few days. This means that in the high resorts where there is a decent covering we can look forward to some of the best skiing of the season.

W.J. Burroughs

Peter Hankey

### SKIING DIARY

FRANCE  
Avalanches Feb 27-Mar 4: Snow Surf world cup finals.  
Les Arcs Mar 1-4: Speed skiing open competition.  
Chamonix Feb 26-Mar 5: La Grande Défilé — a rally on skis.  
Fleaine Feb 25-28: Snow Surf — French cup, moguls and super G.  
Méribel Mar 2: Ballantines Ski Challenge Races.  
Tignes Mar 2: Ballantines Ski Challenge Races.  
ITALY  
Corvara Mar 2: Children's torchlight descent.  
AUSTRIA  
Zell Am See Mar 2: The Zeller Fasnacht races, a giant slalom open to all.

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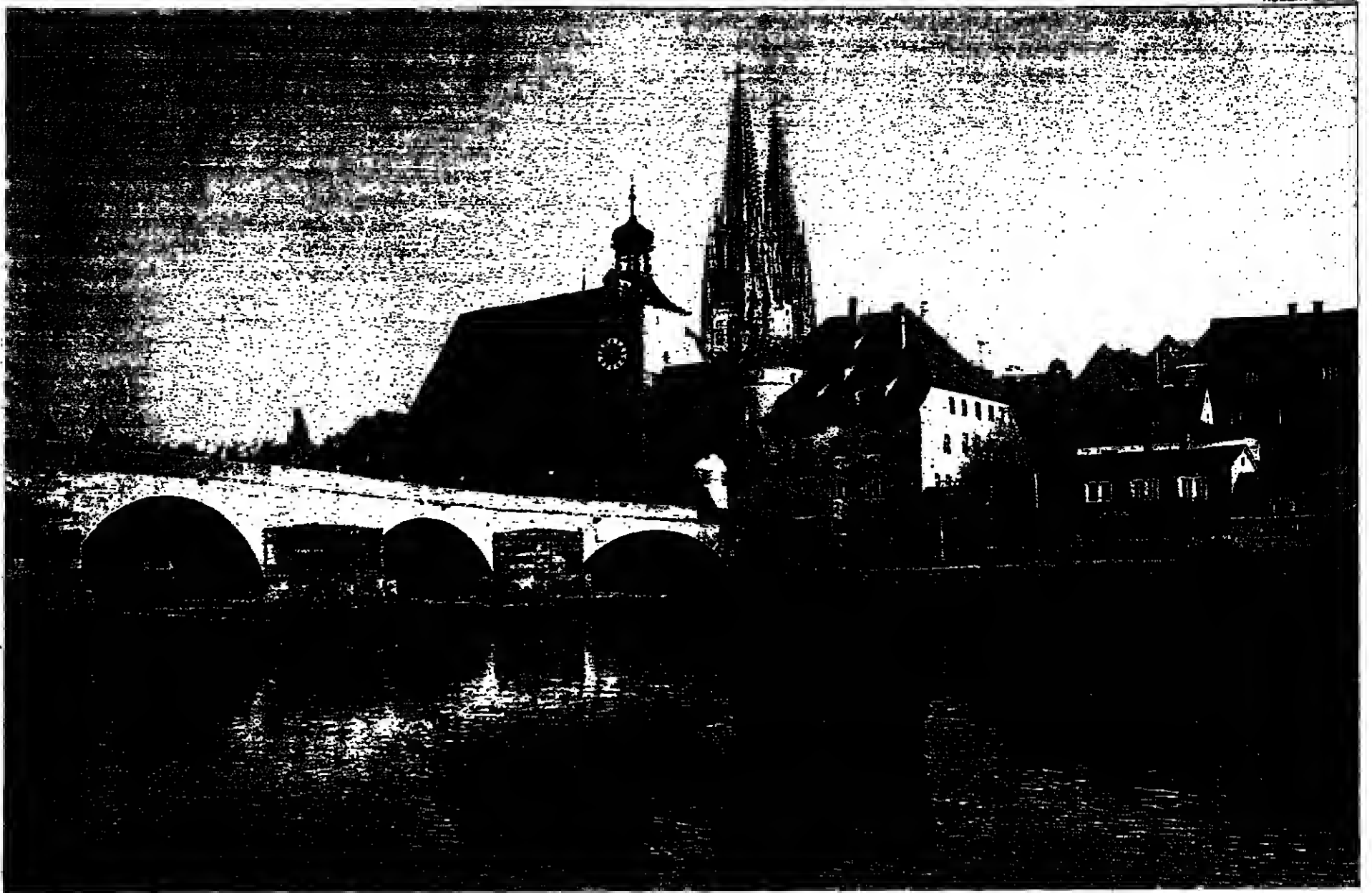
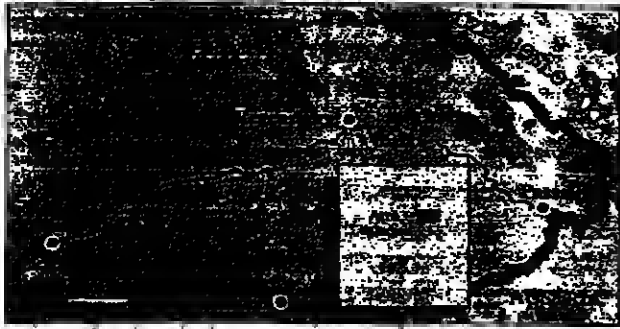
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TRAVEL

# River towns in waltz time

Hilary Finch takes in silly stories and Swabian sausages along the Danube from Ulm to Passau



Passages of time: left, ornamental clock on the Rathaus at Ulm, tucked in a bend of the young Danube, which shapes the city's character. Right, the old bridge downstream at Regensburg, an illusion of Italy in Bavaria and a monument to wealth and stability

U nlike the Tailor of Gloucester who, with the aid of an army of mice, grew rich making fine waistcoats for gentlemen, the Tailor of Ulm ended his life in the workhouse.

Albrecht Berlinger one day decided to fashion his silk and fishbones into a glider, and in May 1811 tried to fly over the Danube from one bank to another. The wind turned round that morning, the air currents were wrong, he told the assembled crowds that the experiment was impossible. They insisted, he fell in; and the figure who now twirls on a thousand children's mobiles in Ulm's boutiques, and is celebrated as a man of genius, was ridiculed and ostracized until his dying day.

The city of Ulm, tucked in a bend on the young German Danube between the Swabian Alps and Lake Constance, is busy with such eccentric storytelling. Rudolf Dentler, the city's 68-year-old silver-smith, looks set to be the tailor's successor. He wears a

bishop's mitre and practises ballet while playing his trade. It's true, I saw him.

But if Ulm has the silliest stories in Germany, it can also pride itself on fitting the Danube blue long before it reaches Vienna. The city is watered by a tributary called the Blaue wherever you walk, it is there, gliding and gurgling its way into the big river just by the old wall. At the "Zur Forelle" I ate *mautiaschen*, a sort of spinach-filled ravioli floating in soup, and a pile of *brettschizle*, the best noodles in Swabia, before taking an evening stroll round the city wall. In the space of half an hour, I had discovered no fewer than three secret gardens: one for the blind, rich in texture and aroma; one for apothecaries, golden with late calendula and maize-for-gynaecological-disorder; and one emulating the Sahara, just a couple of yards from the river bank.

Despite a Gothic cathedral which boasts the highest spire in the world, Ulm takes its character from the river itself.

The Danube has brought not only trade (Protestant Ulm used to do a fine line in exporting snails to Catholic Austria for Lent), but also a constant passage of peoples. It was from Ulm, for instance, that the Swabians of the Danube emigrated to Hungary in the 18th century, only to return, as refugees and exiles, at the end of the last war.

If the flow and contraflow of emigrants have marked Ulm with an almost palpable sense of patient humanity, then Regensburg, 150 miles further downstream, stands as a monument to prosperity and stability. It was one vast stage set for all the merchants of Venice who ever lived, and is now an illusion of Italy in Bavaria, so architectural encyclopaedia of rose towers, arches, loggias and palazzi, cumulating their partners in trade and outdoing one another.

Restoration is lavish and comprehensive. There is experimental theatre in pristine Renaissance courtyards, gallery-cafes under wide arcades, modern flats sprouting outcrops of pilasters and fragments of figurines. And suddenly, in the middle of a wall, there will be strange standing stones covered with rune-like Hebrew inscriptions: the remains of synagogues, abandoned in 1519.

It was in Regensburg that the first German coffee-house was opened to break the diets of emperors, elector-princes and dukes meeting opposite in the Imperial Diet Chamber of the old Rathaus. Now it celebrates Regensburg's other great institution, the family of Thurn und Taxis. They had a monopoly on the European postal system in the 16th century; now Gloria, eccentric and jet-setting young wife of the old prince, is fixed in her very own chocolate, handmade in the Cafe Prinzess.

A curious cloud of dense, sausage-scented smoke hangs over the Danube from the ringing of the first morning bell to the six o'clock Angelus and beyond. However many Gloria chocs you may already have tucked away, it is impos-

sible not to be led by the oose to a tiny 12th-century hot called the Wurstküch, on the shores of the river by the old stone bridge. Elsa, 85 and married only to her dark, acrid kitchen, dishes out the succulent sausages in infinite multiples of two, and Rosa, almost her equal in years, serves them al fresco, with vast flower-vases of beer.

Italy suddenly seems far away. And just in case one

needed further geographical reorientation, a boat may be taken for a pleasant 50-minute cruise down the river to a hillside temple called Valhalla. Built after the Napoleonic wars by Ludwig I of Bavaria, this immense and macabre parthenon, reached by 358 steps, is a hall of fame for the great of the German-speaking nations. Among its 121 busts, there is Mendel but no Mendelssohn, Bruckner

but no Mahler, Eichendorff but no Heine. "Where is Heine?" I demanded. "He called the place a tomb of marble skeletons, so he didn't stand a chance," was the reply.

The Danube flows, unperturbed, to Passau and the Austrian border. Its true blue is oow irretrievably compromised by the confluence of the black Ill, peaty from the Bohemian Forest, and the green and glacial Inn from the

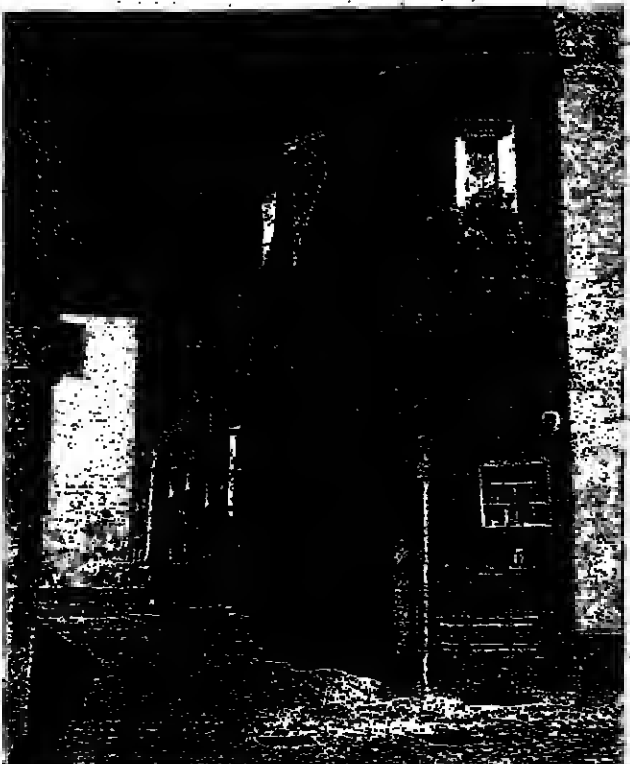
Swiss Alps. Clustered on a spit of land between the Inn and the Danube, Passau has suffered more than most from the architectural insensitivities of the 1960s, and only oow is the aesthetic revolution of the last two decades beginning to take effect.

As the Gothic end of St Stephen's Cathedral is meticulously reassembled and restored, its high baroque interior remains a cornucopia

of Italian exuberance. Stucco cherubs tumble out of frescos, and at ooon the echo register of the world's largest church organ purrs out of the "Holy Ghost" hole in the roof. The twin towers, aping those of Salzburg, look pointedly downstream, where the boats of the Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft start their long journey out of Germany to Vienna, Budapest and the Black Sea.



Still waters: old houses at Ulm, true home of the blue river



Exuberant shades of restoration: new life in Passau's old town

## TRAVEL NOTES

● Lufthansa flies to Stuttgart (for Ulm) from £98 (Apex return) to £372 (first class), and to Munich (for Regensburg and Passau) from £112 to £418. Rail and road connections are excellent: those with more time and energy might like to cycle along the Danube from Ulm to Regensburg. An excellent Donau-Radwander-Karte pocket map set guides you in stages along the route.

● All three cities offer a wide range of accommodation. I stayed in the Intercity Hotel in Ulm, the exquisitely restored patrician Alstadt Arch in Regensburg, and the Weisser Hase in Passau, all medium price. Expect to pay about £40 a night for a double room, £30 for a single.

● DER (18 Conduit Street, London W1, 01-408 0111) offer a "History Lover's Holiday" taking in Regensburg and Passau; Taper Holidays (126 Sunbridge Road, Bradford, Yorks, or 01-441 4010) offer city breaks in Regensburg.

● Further information from the German National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, London W1 (01-495 3390).

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# Bermuda







# SPORT & LEISURE

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## Bruno treated like a lamb to the Tyson slaughter

Final encounter: Frank Bruno (left) works out, but most Americans echo the Los Angeles Times columnist who said "Bruno figures to be the biggest British disaster since the Titanic" in the face of the might of the world champion, Tyson (right)

The American joke about Frank Bruno some months ago - "Don't miss the press conference, it's your chance to see a British heavyweight in the vertical position" - was straight music-hall compared to the fierce, now being directed at Bruno's attempt to challenge Mike Tyson for the world heavyweight championship here today.

The Los Angeles Times columnist, Jim Murray, said on Thursday: "Bruno is destined to be the biggest British disaster since the Titanic." Las Vegas will bet you even money Bruno doesn't last the first round. He's 7½-1 to lose, 6-1 to get knocked out. He's probably 7-5 to get killed.

Frank Bruno is a kind of complicated punching bag, a measuring rod. If Bruno lasts much past the introductions, if he is still upright as the strains of God Save the Queen die on the night air - and are not quickly followed by him - Tyson may have to leave town in disgrace and incognito. If he loses a round, he'll never live it down. If the fight even lasts a round, Tyson is embarrassed.

Temporary oblivion is the lot of most boxers at some time and they go into that pit with their eyes open. But when one's boxing knowledge tells one that the bout is a mismatch, and this can only be balanced by a 1000-1 chance right-hand from Bruno, then I for one, shall be waiting for the start in the hotdog and beer smelling atmosphere of the Hilton sports centre, with a chill in my bones.

**Bruno should net £1 million**  
Bruno's official gross purse for tonight's bout is \$3.75 million (about £2.1 million). In addition he could receive as much as \$500,000 from closed-circuit revenue in Britain and Ireland. Tyson will be paid an estimated \$8 million (about £4.5 million) gross, courtesy of the promoters, the Las Vegas Hilton, and Home Box Office, the cable television network. Bruno will net around £1 million after deductions from his manager, Terry Lawless (25 per cent), tax (approximately 40 per cent), sanctioning fees (about \$61,800), levy from the British Boxing Board of Control (negotiable up to 10 per cent), and legal fees (about £11,235). Training costs have been met by his sponsors, HP Sauce. Tyson can expect to net about £2½ million.

In colour: the making of Bruno, page 48

**Cagnes winner**  
Restrained (Paul Cook) was a 15-length winner of the Prix des Anémones in heavy ground at Cagnes-sur-mer yesterday and she has now won twice in a week for her trainer, William Hasting-Bass. Cook also finished second on the Charlie Booth-trained Brunans in the Prix des Reunions, won by Ulysses D'Amour.

It is ominous that Dr Adrian Whitson, the senior medical officer of the British board, is reported to be coming here. Dr Whitson, though chairman of the WBC medical committee, does not always attend events abroad involving British boxers.

The \$3.5 million that Bruno will receive may soften the blows for the gentle giant but if the ending is not clean some television viewers may find final moments disturbing. Some experts say: "But Bruno is a very fit athlete... but fitness has little to do with the capacity of the head to take a battering."

The effect of a Tyson punch is rather like a cricket ball hitting a helmet being hit on the head with the "holding" bouncer, and then somebody else following up and smashing the unfortunate with a cricket bat. Cricketers are athletes too but how does such a man stand up to this kind of treatment?

What has to lessen the damaging effect of a blow is the boxer's defence and his mobility. Bruno has very little of either.

On a military level the contest is like Libya facing the United States. A Libyan rocket might hit an American aircraft carrier. So might a Bruno bomb land on Tyson's chin. But as in the military analogy, what then?

When a serious newspaper like the Los Angeles Times writes in a dismissive way one wonders how seriously other American reporters viewed

### Tale of the tape

Tyson	Bruno
Age 27	Age 27
Height 5ft 10in	Height 5ft 10in
Weight 168lb	Weight 168lb
Reach 71in	Reach 71in
Normal 48in	Normal 48in
Expanded 50in	Expanded 50in
Forearm 14in	Forearm 14in
Wrist 14in	Wrist 14in
Neck 14in	Neck 14in
Thigh 18in	Thigh 18in
Calf 14in	Calf 14in
Shin 14in	Shin 14in
Instep 14in	Instep 14in
Instep 14in	Instep 14in
Instep 14in	Instep 14in
Instep 14in	Instep 14in

Tyson: 35 wins, 0 defeats, 2 no decisions.  
Bruno: 32 wins, 2 defeats, 1 no decision.

the belief of Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, that his man will knock out Tyson or out-box the champion. "First thing you do if you want to fight Tyson is throw away the Marquess of Queensberry Rules," Lawless said. "Bruno is going to do that first. I do not think the fight will go the distance. And then he added simply: 'I believe Bruno will win.'"

But a neutral observer will find it difficult to see how Bruno can do beyond three rounds, never mind beat Tyson. To beat Tyson you must have the foot and hand speed of an Ali. You must be able to move in any direction quickly and hold, grapple, break away and strike with great force at the same time. Bruno can do none of these.

Perhaps because all but one of Bruno's opponents were hand-picked he never learned to move in any direction but forward. And perhaps because the opponents were slow Bruno

no's hand speed did not improve enough to deflect top class heavyweights. Besides, Tyson, being smaller and faster than all of Bruno's opponents, will be all the harder to hit.

When Bruno is struck on the chin his first instinct, as seen in the bouts against Cummings, Smith and Witherspoon, is not to fight for his life or cover up or run but adopt a cowering position. Therefore one hopes the ending will be quick or the towel will come fluttering in.

Eddie Futch, who used to be Joe Holmes's corner, agrees. "There's nobody on the horizon that can beat Tyson," he said. "Bruno is a big guy, strong guy and not a bad boxer, but he's slow. Tyson has tremendous hand speed and I have never seen any heavyweight punch as fast as he does since Joe Louis. One thing fatal for Bruno is that when he gets hit he loses everything. He falls apart."

Therefore, it looks as if the bout will not go more than one round. If one says it will go two or three then one is saying that Tyson will not land a heavy blow in the first round, or the second and so on. The bout will go for as long as it takes Tyson to land the first big punch.

I asked Jay Bright, Tyson's trainer, whether it was necessary for Tyson to keep on hitting Bruno once he had been stunned and unable to defend himself. "In England if you can't defend yourself the fight is stopped," I said. Bright said: "If Bruno does not go

down Michael will keep on hitting him until he does. That's Michael. No mercy. This, from the 32-year-old school teacher, came with surprising vehemence.

But Bright could be wrong. I have seen Tyson turn away from excesses. One hopes that once he has the upper hand he will this time too.

Much will depend on how Bruno reacts when Tyson comes into the ring. He is the most frightening sight in sport. By the time he has warmed up and arrived in the ring, it is as if he is already into the fifth round and in his mind has reached the point in the contest where he has felled Bruno and is about to finish the job. This is when he tenderizes his opponents' minds. Only if Bruno is not genuinely terrified will he have a chance of putting his own strategy into motion.

Sugar Ray Leonard, the master of tactics, says: "It is rather unfortunate that he has to fight Mike Tyson. But everyone has a chance. I think it depends on what Frank Bruno initiates and also a matter of mental stability whether he is confident enough not to choke under pressure because Tyson has this uncanny way of intimidating people before the fight."

"Bruno can't go in there with the idea that one punch is going to stop Mike Tyson because Tyson has a pretty good chin. I would tell him that because he does not have the finesse to dance round the ring to get right for him and try to land a big shot. That way if he is able to hurt Mike, the rest is up to him. If Bruno is not able to get respect from Tyson it is going to be over early. If Tyson does not respect you, Tyson defeats you."

Leonard's final advice is: "He has to go out with the idea that he can beat Mike Tyson and not with the idea 'let's go a few rounds and pick the cheque up later on'."

### Las Vegas

They are building a multi-million pound hotel along the Strip here called The Mirage, complete with volcano and waterfall in the gardens. An electronic billboard outside repeatedly flashes the sign: "Fantasy becomes Reality in 1989." It is a message that could have been custom made for Frank Bruno.

If this was horse-racing, the stewards would not allow it - or Iron Mike Tyson, the undisputed world heavyweight champion, would be made to carry weight in his belt and his shoes. It would still be a mismatch. And he would still win tonight's contest. Tyson's odds of 9-1 on are, it must be said, soberly accurate, for the truth is Bruno is No. 1 challenger without ever having defeated a boxer who really matters.

It may fairly be said that the skill in reaching a title contest lies less with the amiable Bruno than with those who have schemed his seven-year passage to the top with a 32-2 record in which he lost to the only two boxers of substance, James "Bonecrusher" Smith and Tim "The Hitman" Lutz. In serious boxing, his record is no better than 7-2. Bruno, a large man who can throw an occasional punch, has shown that he has no idea how to defend himself against a boxer who comes out of him. In such a situation, he is in trouble even before he has been hurt.

When this happens, as in the tenth round against Smith, the unhappy Bruno rolls his big eyes, stares around him, and does not know where to go. This evidence has not gone unobserved by Tyson or by Jay Bright, the boxer and occasional brother with whom he shared so many young years at Cus D'Amato's Catechism home and who will now be in his corner.

A harsh observer might say that Mickey Duff was cynical in having manoeuvred a no better than average boxer through the divided heavyweight groups that existed until Tyson amalgamated all

**David Miller**  
Chief Sports Correspondent

three titles; with his IBF victory over Tony Tucker in August 1987, following his WBA defeat of Smith and, initially in 1986, his WBC defeat of Trevor Berbick. A generous observer might say Bruno's handlers had earned him a bumper pay day that he barely deserves.

Whether Bruno is brave or merely foolhardy remains to be seen. He continues this week to assert, without elaboration, that this is a peak moment to take on Tyson: the inference being that he hopes peripheral problems will have diminished Tyson's formidable power. Tyson merely shrugs, and says Bruno will be in some serious trouble. Bruno is hoping successfully to stand in the way of an avalanche.

A photographer here from London has said, laconically, that he will start his automatic exposure motor the moment the boxers first touch gloves. Tyson is even money to win in the first two rounds: he has won 17 of his 35-0 bouts in the first.

For Bruno to win, some kind of accident has to befall Tyson, who has yet to be knocked down as a professional. With substantial advantages in weight, height, and reach, Bruno nonetheless has to land a knockout blow in the first couple of rounds, yet he has never confronted such an animal fighter as Tyson, nor anyone of such speed.

The only conceivable weakness in Tyson's armour could arise if Bruno somehow is still standing after seven or eight rounds and his opponent is found to have been drained by having to shed 30lb in a couple of months. Those who have seen the champion knocking hard men around in training like punch-balls doubt that this is likely.

Bruno may have boxed 158 rounds in training over eight weeks, but he has not had a contest for 16 months, a lay-off which has done nothing to assist his acute lack of experience against severe opposition. Terry Lawless, his trainer, has admitted that this lay-off, without another contest during delays waiting to meet Tyson, was to protect the commercial value of a title bout. Bruno will not lose at the bank.

Lawless said this week that he expects Tyson will step into the ring latest upon exploding the frustrations that have gathered around him outside the ring; yet simultaneously, Lawless acknowledges that his man has to hit and hurt the champion in a contest he, Lawless, does not expect to see how Bruno will survive the first experience in order to achieve the second. Michael Spinks survived for 90 seconds last June.

I saw Smith last 12 rounds against Tyson, while never attempting to make it a contest; but Smith is a highly intelligent man who could protect himself, and his dollar windfall, behind the skillful defence of gloves, forearms and elbows around his head. Bruno has no such defence, and I just hope that he can come out of the encounter with his senses intact and his civvy street future unimpaired.

That view should not be seen as a condemnation of boxing. I believe that formal fighting is basic to man's nature, and that what men such as D'Amato and Johnny Tocco do, in providing an altruistic training environment for aggressive boys, is a worthy service to man. There are worse things men do to each other outside the ring without pulling a gun.

My worry tonight is that, in a mismatch, Bruno has not an ability traditional with the art of self-defence, and I hope that the referee will swiftly give him sanctuary if that is required. Upon that official sensitivity may depend any judgement on the wisdom of Bruno's professional handlers.

### CAREER RECORDS

#### MIKE TYSON

OVERALL: Contests: 35. Wins: 35 (31 inside distance).

- 1985  
Apr 10 Hector MacKenzie, Albany, New York, 1st
- Apr 19 Trent Singleton, Albany, 1st
- May 23 Donald Hufnagel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 4th
- May 20 Rick Spain, Atlantic City, 1st
- Jul 11 James Anderson, Atlantic City, 2nd
- Jul 19 Larry Sims, Poughkeepsie, New York, 3rd
- Aug 15 Lorenzo Canady, Atlantic City, 1st
- Sept 6 Michael Johnson, Atlantic City, 1st
- Oct 2 Dennis Long, Atlantic City, 1st
- Oct 25 Robert Colley, Atlantic City, 1st
- Nov 1 Sterling Benjamin, Latham, New York, 1st
- Nov 13 Eddie Richardson, Houston, Texas, 1st
- Nov 22 Conroy Nelson, Albany, 2nd
- Dec 8 Sam Scott, New York, 1st
- Dec 27 Mark Young, Colorado, New York, 1st

- 1986  
Jan 11 David Jacob, Albany, 1st
- Jan 24 Mike Jamison, Atlantic City, 5th
- Feb 18 James Ferguson, Troy, New York, 6th
- Mar 10 Steve Zoussli, Uniondale, New York, 3rd
- May 3 James Tillis, Glen Falls, New York, 10th
- May 20 Mitch Green, New York, 10th
- Jun 13 Reggie Groom, New York, 1st
- Jun 28 William Hooper, Troy, 1st
- Jul 11 Lorenzo Boyd, Glen Falls, New York, 2nd
- Jul 26 Marvin Frazier, Glen Falls, 1st
- Aug 17 José Ribalta, Atlantic City, 10th
- Aug 20 Alfonso Ruiz, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2nd
- Sept 6 Trevor Berbick (WBC title challenge), Las Vegas, 1st
- Nov 22 Tyson, 7th

- 1987  
Mar 3 James "Bonecrusher" Smith (WBA title challenge), Las Vegas, 12th
- May 30 Pinklon Thomas (WBC and WBA title defence), Las Vegas, 8th
- Aug 1 Tony Tucker (WBC and WBA title defence, IBF title challenge) Las Vegas, 12th
- Oct 16 Tyson Biggs (undisputed title defence), Atlantic City, 7th

- 1988  
Jan 22 Larry Holmes (undisputed title defence), Atlantic City, 4th
- Mar 20 Tony Tubbs (undisputed title defence), Tokyo, 2nd
- Jun 27 Michael Spinks (undisputed title defence), Atlantic City, 1st

#### FRANK BRUNO

OVERALL: Contests: 34. Wins: 32 (31 inside distance). Defeats: 2.

- 1982  
Mar 17 Lupo Guerra, Kensington, 1st
- Mar 30 Peter Malschewski, Kensington, 3rd
- Apr 20 Tom Stevenson, Kensington, 2nd
- May 4 Ron Gibbs, Wembley, 4th
- June 1 Tony Moore, Kensington, 2nd
- Sept 14 George Scott, Wembley, 1st
- Oct 23 Ali Lukman, Berlin, 2nd
- Nov 9 Rudi Guevra, Kensington, 2nd
- Nov 23 George Butaback, Wembley, 1st
- Dec 7 Gilberto Asca, Kensington, 1st

- 1983  
Jan 18 Stewart Lithgo, Kensington, 4th
- Feb 9 Peter Malschewski, Kensington, 3rd
- Mar 1 Winston Allen, Kensington, 2nd
- Apr 10 Eddie Neilson, Kensington, 3rd
- May 8 Scott Ledson, Wembley, 3rd
- May 29 Barry Fancher, Kensington, 5th
- Jul 9 Mike Jamison, Chicago, 2nd
- Sept 27 Bill Sharkey, Wembley, 1st
- Oct 11 Floyd Cummings, Kensington, 7th
- Dec 6 Walter Santamore, Kensington, 4th

- 1984  
Mar 13 Juan Figueroa, Wembley, 1st
- Mar 13 James "Bonecrusher" Smith, Wembley, 1st
- Oct 10 Ken Laluzeta, Wembley, 2nd
- Sept 25 Jeff Jordan, Kensington, 3rd
- Nov 5 Phil Brown, Wembley, 10th
- Nov 27 Phil Brown, Wembley, 10th

- 1985  
Mar 26 Lucien Rodriguez, Wembley, 1st
- Oct 1 Anders Eldred (European title challenge), Wembley, 4th
- Dec 4 Larry Frazier, Kensington, 2nd

Simon Barnes's Sporting Diary, page 10

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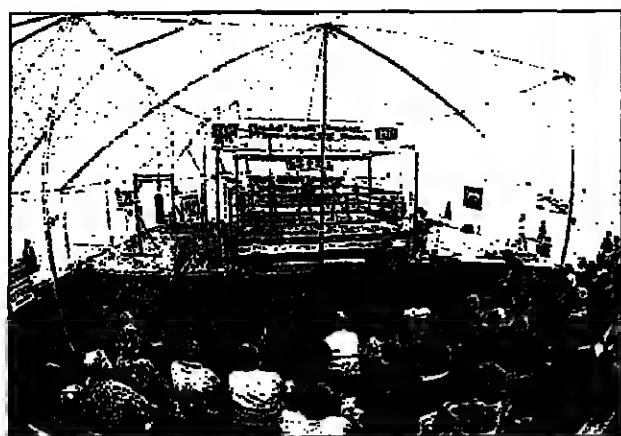


# The making of a money-spinner

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS COLE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS COLLS

**From a poor background in south London to a multi-million pound world title fight in Las Vegas . . . Srikumar Sen charts the rise, fall, and irresistible rise of Frank Bruno**



### Bruno under canvas: training has become a spectator sport

**F**ranks Bruno is the most remarkable success story of British boxing, perhaps even of British sporting history. This is not because he is a winner, but because he cannot lose. In an age when winning is everything, if Bruno goes only three rounds with the formidable Mike Tyson, it is a disgrace in the very hours of tomorrow morning, they will say he did well. If he is there for seven or eight rounds, he will be a national hero.

He will also be a millionaire, receiving £2 million for his pains, and marketing experts say he can keep on winning in money terms: his earnings outside the ring will not be affected even if he is beaten and retires.

Sociologists can no doubt explain why the British give him special treatment, when there are less than kind to other, far better sportsmen who they fail. Do they see him more as an entertainer than a sportsman? Is it because he is a product of our consumer society, where nothing succeeds like financial success?

Whatever the deeper meanings, the simple answer is that he is the nation's huggable Bruno Bear. He is the kind of

person families love to have to tea. No wonder chain store owners are falling over their counters to pay him £5,000 to open their supermarkets.

It may seem a paradox that the nation's favourite sportsman is part of a dangerous and violent sport, the "hust business" as Tyson calls it, condemned by doctors, and seen by its critics as a pigsty run by a very nice people. But boxers, if not boxing, have always found a special place in the hearts of the British: Kid Lewis, Carpentier, Dempsey, Wilde, Harvey, Farr, Louis, Ali, Cooper, McGuigan. They are like neon lights that illuminate not particularly nice places, but attract all the same.

The making of Frank Bruno has nothing of *Champion* or *On the Waterfront* or *Raging Bull*. There are no shabby patches visible when the neon lights go out. It is a story about making big money out of boxing; how, with the help of television, a heavyweight with not much more than a knock-out punch challenges Tyson for the world title. Since the boxer himself believes that he could be a contender, it is also a story of disappointment and drama, success and failure, deflation and elation, courage and triumph.



**Portrait of a believer: whatever happens in Las Vegas, Frank Bruno cannot lose. The British public will still love him, and chain store owners will go on giving him £5,000 to open their shops**

saved from a life of kicking cans around south London streets by boxing. Then Britain's leading manager, Terry Lawless, orifies his potential and traips him, and the world's cleverest matchmaker, Mickey Duff, finds suitable opponents and makes him the leading contender. Then the marketing men go to work and everybody ends up very rich.

Thanks to the BBC, Harry Carpenter, and the catchphrase "Know what I mean, 'Arty?" Bruno comes over as a lovable young mao as unpreentious as HP sauce and

soft as Mother's Pride, a "lovely boy", as Windsor Davies used to say. In a ghosted biography, Bruno says: "It's not been bad for a poor black cockney from south of the Thames, who was so bright at school that when he was asked by a teacher



To Bruno's enormous credit, he stopped Cummings in the seventh round. But the American's blow exposed Bruno's inability to see poaches travelling in an arc, and to handle a crisis. It was the same seven months later when Bonecrusher Smith, a novice

hit him with a jumbo left in the tenth round. Bruno received 14 more blows before falling unconscious to the floor. Amazingly, the next day Bruno performed the most significant feat of his career. He brought Lawless back from the brink of retirement.

After the defeats of Bruoc and Mark Kaylor, Lawless had decided to quit. Bruno told him, "One day I'm going to be world champion, and I can't do it without you," and lifted his manager up off the floor.

In March 1986, Bruno met a tired South African, Gerrie Coetzee, who by some strange good fortune was still WBA number one cootender. Bruno wiped him out in the first round and became the number one. But in July, he was again in a pitiful condition in

again in a pitiful condition in the eleventh round from blows by Witherspoon, and Lawless had to rush to his aid. Bruno's career seemed in pieces, but after a 30-bout campaign over four years he had the best part of £1 million in the bank. Then, as Tyson started running out of oppo-

ments in the next year, it became clear that if Bruno could again reach the number one contender's position, a fortune could be made. After 15 months and three contests, Bruno stopped a slabby Joe Bugner in eight rounds in London, and was back at the top, waiting for Tiger W-

top waiting for Tyson. He waited 15 months without throwing a punch; there was too much at stake for his backers to risk even a warm-up fight. At last the waiting is over. "Let's get it oo!"



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**'Franklyn, you've got it. God's spotlight has fallen on you'**

His mother sent him to Oak Hall, a GLC boarding school for difficult boys. He knuckled under for fear of the slipper and excelled at games; with weights, he built up a powerful physique. He became head boy, and represented Sussex schools at football and athletics.

He had 21 bouts as an amateur and was beaten only once, by Joe Christie of Dublin, but he avenged that defeat. After winning the ABA title at 18, in 1980, he met Lawless, who told him: "The only promise I'll make you is that if you sign with me I'll give you the best possible preparation for your cootees."

Bruno applied for a professional license, but the Boxing Board turned him down because of short-sightedness in the right eye, and he had to go to Bogota for a special operation, all paid for by Lawless. He returned with perfect vision, but had to wait a year before he could get his license. It was in this period, according to Bruno, that he signed up with Burt McCarty.

"I signed a piece of paper without really realizing the commitment I was making," Bruno said. A court case followed. Lawless got Bruno, but as McCarty had a possible case for damages, Lawless eventually settled out of court for £100,000.

Bruno opened his career in March 1982 by knocking out a Mexican heavyweight, Lupe Guerra. He carried on bowling them over; it was good for his confidence. But he was too stiff in his movement and never looked a killer in the ring. Lawless and Jimmy Tibbs, the trainer, battled in the Royal Oak gym, Canning Town, to make him mean, and Bruno took up golf and dancing for suppleness.

His nineteenth cootee in 1983, against Jumbo Cummings, was a near disaster, as a right hand in the first round left him paralysed on his feet in the middle of the ring. The bell stopped Cummings from continuing his assault and the referee, Mike Jacobs, and Lawless helped the transfixed Bruno back to his corner.

**Superstar status:** Bruno's generous fans forgive all his failures — do they see him more as an entertainer?

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...they see him more as an entertainer than a sportsman.







## ATHLETICS: NATIONAL TITLES AT STAKE IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

## Lewis and Tunstall strive to be king of the country

By Pat Butcher  
Athletics Correspondent

Steve Tunstall and Dave Lewis renew their early-season rivalry in a national championship, which, despite its relegation in the calendar as an elite race, remains the most important contest to date.

The world cross country trial, now in its second year, is clearly the best top-class race in Britain, but the English, Scottish and Welsh club championships today still rank as the most spectacular of cross country events. Held respectively in Cheam — where 2,000 runners will contest the senior title — Hawick and Cardiff, they are not short of elite competitors either.

Tunstall has beaten Lewis, his Lancashire neighbour, in all four of their meetings this season. But Lewis missed the trial for the world championships through illness, with Tunstall finishing seventh when he might have done well to withdraw with a stomach upset.

Lewis was added to the British team for the world championship, but Tunstall

few sportsmen can claim to have won a national title within a stone's throw of their birthplace, but Neil Tennant, a Cambridge-based Scot, will be striving for just that when he defends the Scottish cross country title at Winton Lodge, Hawick, this afternoon (Barry Townbridge writes). Tennant was born "100 metres from the park" in 1962, and lived in Hawick until he moved south at the age of eight.

A member of Edinburgh Southern Harriers, Tennant was not named by the Scottish selectors for the world championship trial at Gateshead two weeks ago, though he was not unduly bothered by what many

was not eligible, because of a year's international suspension, having competed for France last year while he was in the Foreign Legion.

Both men are fit for today and the principal interest will be in how Tunstall fares in his first 16-kilometre race and his first English national since finishing 79th in the youth's race in 1981.

Birchfield just lost their English women's national title last week, and their young men's team, albeit bolstered by Dave Black, engaged in a comeback, will be hard

pressed to defend the title against Bristol with Nick Rose and Deon McNeilly, Brighton and Hove, Tipton, Gateshead and, possibly, Invicta East Kent.

One area where Birchfield will probably never be equalled is in the Birmingham club's domination of this, and many other, team championships throughout the last century. Since their first entry, in 1880, Birchfield has won the team title 45 times and been placed in the first three on 28 further occasions.

This, and much more of fascination and anecdote can be found in *The History of Birchfield Harriers, 1877-1988*, edited by Professor W. O. Alexander (descendant of the brother founders), and Wilf Morgan. It can be obtained by sending £5.95, including postage, to V Stokes, 80 Craythorne Avenue, Birmingham, B20 1LN.

Jon Solly was incensed yesterday at news that the English Commonwealth 10,000 metres trial has been brought forward two months, to June 23, thereby jeopardising his chances of defending the title he won in Edinburgh in 1984.

Solly, preparing to leave next week for three months' training in Kenya, said: "It seems fair enough to split the 5,000 and 10,000 metres trials, but to make the decision now is totally illogical."

"I've been off for virtually two years with leg problems. I've run out of money, I've sold my house to finance the Kenya trip, with a view to having 10 weeks' racing when I get back to prepare myself properly, and now this."

regarded as a surprise omission. "They chose not to select me, that's their choice. If nobody wants me, I'm certainly not going to beg. At least I can get on with doing what I want."

In the short term that includes making the Scottish team for the Commonwealth Games, in Auckland, this time next year — "certainly at 10,000 metres, although I would like to be considered for the marathon."

Although he has raced only sporadically this winter, victory over five miles on the roads of Rutland last Sunday, in a record 22min 48sec, suggests he has run into form perfectly for the defence of his crown.

At the start of the second half each side squandered a corner but then Old Loughmarians gathered their resources and Ashton increased their lead.

After Faulkner had come on, Faulkner made desperate attempts to save the match,

David Faulkner, despite a state of mind earlier by the Havant manager, David White, that he would not play in the Royal Bank National Indoor Cup Championship because of injury, went into action at Crystal Palace yesterday in a desperate attempt to rescue Fareham in a crisis.

Playing at half pace he did his best to supply his side with passes but it was to no avail. Old Loughmarians came back strongly and Gladman levelled the score at 2-2. Shortly before the interval Old Loughmarians went ahead, Thompson directing a free hit to the unmarked Halls, who scored with a well placed shot.

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Super Swiss: Last chance for Zurbriggen to salvage at least one title this season

## SKIING

## Just pride at stake in the last downhill

From Iain Macleod  
Whistler Mountain  
British Columbia

Two hours' drive north of Vancouver, many of the weary entourage which, since November, has accompanied the "white circus", will this week-end have a sigh of relief from the penultimate slalom of the World Cup concludes here with a men's downhill and a super giant slalom.

There still remains the unenviable, long haul to Japan for the decisive slalom and giant slalom races which will be held over the next two weekends, but for the downhillers this is the final junction.

Only the downhill title has been conclusively settled and even if the new champion, Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, also seems certain to don the overall crown, the three slalom titles still bear an undecided air.

In practical terms, today's downhill is nothing more than an exercise in pride. It may serve to increase Girardelli's lead in the overall standings, but of greater importance will be the motivating factor for tomorrow's decisive super giant slalom.

It is, for Firmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, perhaps the final opportunity to salvage one title from a season which began with such promise, but gradually faded into obscurity as a combination of illness and injury weakened his resolve.

The defending super giant slalom champion, Zurbriggen finished sixth at Aspen last weekend to maintain a tenuous seven-point lead over the Olympic champion, Didier Cuche, of France. The Swiss, a former world champion, Martin Hangl, a further three points adrift.

The conditions are, as always, less than perfect here. Whistler, unlike Vancouver, has to contend with a curious climate which is a combination of wet coastal conditions and the warmer interior climate. The end product: a changeable diet of snow, rain, fog, high winds and rising temperatures.

Fog and rain caused the cancellation of three of the four downhill races on Friday and left many of the racers complaining that the 3,152-metre course was dangerous. Wet, heavy snow on Thursday took its toll and Marnet Coppinger, of Italy, suffered a broken leg.

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SWIMMING  
Confusion into a world best

After the 450 metres freestyle race on Thursday the World Cup meeting at Barnet Copthall yesterday produced a 10.17sec world best for the 25-metre sprint which lasted all of 40 minutes.

Confusion reigned over the shortest event on the programme after a third false start to the final, caused by Mike Fibbens. Under the rubric of FINA, the international governing body, there is not meant to be any recall by the starter after such a premature start, but this race exposed a flaw in the rule.

Fibbens' dive was so pre-emptive that, after a short pause for thought, four of the other finalists followed him into the water to race. But the electronic timing system, which is activated by the starter's signal, with the first three men from the earlier 'race', Halsall, Stefan Volery and Bernd Hoffmeister, finishing in the same order, with Halsall

had the starter left it at that, all five men in the water could

have been disqualified, but instead he triggered a long blast, leaving no one sure whether it was a start or recall, and leaving three men dripping angrily on the bank.

Dano Halsall, from Switzerland, the holder of the world best, got to the end first in 10.14sec, but then the arguments began. The officials' first reaction was to call for a re-swim, which proved unpopular with those still breathless from their one-length dash. Despite no formal appeal being lodged, a jury of appeal took more than 10 minutes to ponder a decision, eventually giving all but Fibbens the opportunity to re-contest the race off a one-and-for-all start.

This time, all seven were away by the starter's signal, with the first three men from the earlier 'race', Halsall, Stefan Volery and Bernd Hoffmeister, finishing in the same order, with Halsall

had the starter left it at that, all five men in the water could

taking 0.22sec off his world best time. It was the second world best of the afternoon, for Daniela Hunger, the Olympic 200 metre medley champion, from East Germany, had set a new standard in another event, the 100 metres medley.

RESULTS: Men: Freestyle: 25m: O Halsall (Switz), 10.14 (world best); 50m: A Holmertz (Switz), 10m 42.25sec; 100m: C. C. Copthall (Switz), 17.12; 200m: D. Hunger (East Germany), 2:07.8; 400m: G. Roberts (Portugal), 5:07.85; 800m: S. Brown (Wales), 10:07.10; 1,500m: S. Brown (Wales), 16:54.99; 2,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 22:13.16; 4,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 44:28.16; 8,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1:00:22.16; 15,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1:50:22.16; 30,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3:40:22.16; 60,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7:30:22.16; 120,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 14:20:22.16; 240,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 28:10:22.16; 480,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 56:20:22.16; 960,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 112:40:22.16; 1,920,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 224:40:22.16; 3,840,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 448:40:22.16; 7,680,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 896:40:22.16; 15,360,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,792:40:22.16; 30,720,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3,584:40:22.16; 61,440,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7,168:40:22.16; 122,880,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 14,336:40:22.16; 245,760,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 28,672:40:22.16; 491,520,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 57,344:40:22.16; 983,040,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 114,688:40:22.16; 1,966,080,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 229,376:40:22.16; 3,932,160,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 458,752:40:22.16; 7,864,320,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 917,504:40:22.16; 15,728,640,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,835,008:40:22.16; 31,457,280,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3,670,016:40:22.16; 62,914,560,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7,340,032:40:22.16; 125,829,120,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 14,680,064:40:22.16; 251,658,240,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 29,360,128:40:22.16; 503,316,480,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 58,720,256:40:22.16; 1,006,632,960,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 117,440,512:40:22.16; 2,013,265,920,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 234,881,024:40:22.16; 4,026,531,840,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 469,762,048:40:22.16; 8,053,063,680,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 939,524,096:40:22.16; 16,106,127,360,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,879,048,192:40:22.16; 32,212,254,720,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3,758,096,384:40:22.16; 64,424,509,440,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7,516,192,768:40:22.16; 128,849,018,880,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 15,032,385,536:40:22.16; 257,698,037,760,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 30,064,771,072:40:22.16; 515,396,075,520,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 60,129,542,144:40:22.16; 1,030,792,151,040,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 120,259,084,288:40:22.16; 2,061,584,302,080,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 240,518,168,576:40:22.16; 4,123,168,604,160,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 481,036,337,152:40:22.16; 8,246,337,208,320,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 962,072,674,304:40:22.16; 16,492,674,416,640,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,924,145,348,608:40:22.16; 32,985,348,833,280,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3,848,290,697,216:40:22.16; 65,970,697,666,560,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7,696,581,394,432:40:22.16; 131,941,395,333,120,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 15,393,162,788,864:40:22.16; 263,882,790,666,240,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 30,786,325,577,728:40:22.16; 527,765,581,332,480,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 61,572,651,155,456:40:22.16; 1,055,531,162,664,960,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 123,145,302,310,912:40:22.16; 2,111,062,325,329,920,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 246,290,604,621,824:40:22.16; 4,222,124,650,659,840,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 492,581,209,243,648:40:22.16; 8,444,249,301,319,680,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 985,162,418,487,296:40:22.16; 16,888,498,602,639,360,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,970,324,836,974,592:40:22.16; 33,776,997,205,278,720,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 3,940,649,673,949,184:40:22.16; 67,553,994,410,557,440,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 7,881,299,347,898,368:40:22.16; 135,107,988,821,114,880,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 15,762,598,695,796,736:40:22.16; 270,215,977,642,229,760,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 31,525,197,391,593,472:40:22.16; 540,431,955,284,459,520,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 63,050,394,783,186,944:40:22.16; 1,080,863,910,568,919,040,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 126,100,789,566,373,888:40:22.16; 2,161,727,821,137,838,880,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 252,201,579,132,747,776:40:22.16; 4,323,455,642,275,677,760,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 504,403,158,265,495,552:40:22.16; 8,646,911,284,551,355,520,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,008,806,316,530,991,104:40:22.16; 17,293,822,569,102,711,040,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 2,017,612,633,061,982,208:40:22.16; 34,587,645,138,205,422,080,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 4,035,225,266,123,964,416:40:22.16; 69,175,290,276,410,844,160,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 8,070,450,532,247,928,832:40:22.16; 138,350,580,552,821,688,320,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 16,140,901,064,495,857,664:40:22.16; 276,701,161,105,643,377,664,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 32,281,802,128,991,715,328:40:22.16; 553,402,322,211,286,755,328,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 64,563,604,257,983,430,656:40:22.16; 1,106,804,644,422,573,511,661,312,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 129,127,208,515,966,861,312:40:22.16; 2,213,609,288,845,147,023,322,624,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 258,254,417,031,933,722,624:40:22.16; 4,427,218,577,690,294,046,645,248,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 516,508,834,063,867,445,248:40:22.16; 8,854,437,155,380,588,093,290,496,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 1,033,017,668,127,734,890,496:40:22.16; 17,708,874,310,761,176,186,580,992,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 2,066,035,336,255,469,780,992:40:22.16; 35,417,748,621,522,352,373,161,984,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 4,132,070,672,510,939,561,984:40:22.16; 70,835,497,243,044,704,746,323,968,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 8,264,141,345,021,879,123,968:40:22.16; 141,670,994,486,089,408,149,647,936,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 16,528,282,690,043,758,247,936:40:22.16; 283,341,988,972,178,816,299,295,872,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 33,056,565,380,087,516,495,872:40:22.16; 566,683,977,944,357,632,598,574,400,000,000m: S. Brown (Wales), 66,113,130,760,175,032,991,744:40:22.16; 1,133,367,955,888,715,264,119,183,488,000,000m: S. 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## SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

## A medieval hole in one

The Canadian-born humourist, Stephen Leacock, used his interest in golf to create a series of highly-regarded tales, including some amusing stories about the way he imagined the game might be played in the future — and how it could have been played in the past. Perhaps the most ingenious of these was 'A Medieval Hole In One', first published in 1932. It is not only Leacock at his funniest, but offers a most entertaining alternative explanation for one of the great moments of history...

The Middle Ages, from what we know about them, were days of pretty tall deeds and pretty tall talk. In the Middle Ages, if a man accomplished a feat of arms, or a feat of dexterity, or a feat of anything, he didn't let it get spoiled for want of telling. In witness of which, take the marvelous accounts of archery, swordsmanship, strength, skill, and magic which fill the pages of medieval romance from the Chanson de Roland to Walter Scott.

And there is no doubt that the tall talk of the Middle Ages was greatly helped along by the prevailing habit of tall drinking. They drank in those days not by the glass but by the barrel. They knew nothing of flasks or cups or glasses, or such small degenerate measures as those of their descendants. When they wanted a real drink, they knocked in the head of a cask or tun and gathered round it and drank it to the bottom.

Even for a modest individual drink they needed a flagon — and a flagon in the Middle Ages was of the same size as one of our garden watering-pots. A man who had inside him a couple of flagons of old Malmsey or old Gascony had a power of talk and energy in him no longer known among us. When it is added that old Malmsey only cost ten pennies for a full imperial gallon — six of our quarts — one can see that even the dark age had its bright spots; and that history was not so dry as it is called.

As a result, not only were the deeds and feats of arms of the Middle Ages bigger than ours, but even the narration of them had more size. And the spectators and witnesses, having sipped up on their own account a few hogheads of mead or sack, could see more far more than our poor dried-out audiences. In witness of which, take any account of any tournament, bear-fight, bull-fight, archer match or rat-hunt anywhere from AD 1000 to 1500.

For all of which deeds and performances, the running accompaniment of knocking in hogheads and draining flagons kept the whole event in character.

No king in the Middle Ages ever appeared at a public tournament or joust without ordering the ends of half a dozen casks of sack to be knocked in. No royal christening was ever held without tuns of ale being distributed or broached for

the populace, and pipes of wine being pumped into the nobility. At all big celebrations there were huge bonfires. Oxen were roasted whole. Any good man would get away with fifteen pounds of roast meat, six gallons of ale and a flagon of brandy, and go roaring home with an atmosphere round him like the mist round a brewery.

Those were great days. We cannot compete with them.

But in just one point the superiority is ours. The medieval people didn't have our opportunities. Their archery and their tournaments were poor stuff beside our games of today. Just think what would have happened if they had had such a thing as golf in the Middle Ages! Imagine the way in which, with their flagons of sack and their hogheads of Malmsey right on the ground, they could have carried out a golf-match. Imagine what they could have done in the narration of it afterwards! Conceive what could have been made of a medieval hole in one. Our poor unimaginative truth-telling generation can form but little idea as to how they would have dealt with it.

What follows represents an account of a Hole in One, as achieved in the year AD 1215.

and related after the style of medieval romance. It is based on the account of the famous tournament and meeting at Ashby de la Zouch during the reign of King John. On that famous occasion, as Walter Scott related in his *Waverley*, there was an archery match between Hubert the Norman, the protégé of King John, and the mysterious Bowman, Locksley, otherwise Robin Hood the Saxon outlaw.

In this contest Hubert "sped his arrow" (that's the medieval name for what he did) with such consummate skill that it pierced the very centre of the bull's-eye, 300 yards away. But Locksley had a still more consummate touch. He sped his shaft with such unerring dexterity that the point of it struck fair in the notch of Hubert's arrow, still sticking in the bull's-eye, and split it into two exactly even halves! After which even the stung King John had to treat the crowd, a whole meadowful, to two firkins each.

Imagine what would happen if people who could write that kind of thing and people who could believe it had had a chance at a golf story.

Come! Let us turn Hubert and Locksley into their twentieth-century form and make the contest a Hole-in-One Shot! Thus—

All was now prepared. The vast concourse of spectators, both Norman and Saxon, crowded the vacant spaces of the course and even invaded the fairways from which the heralds and pursuivants sought in vain to dislodge them. The humbler churls, or jills, clustered in the branches of the trees.

At intervals along the course great burts or tuns, by which we mean vats, had been placed, from which not only the yeomanry but even the commonry were permitted that day to drink at the King's expense.

King John was seated on a dais beside the sand-box of Tee No 1 at the edge of which the pious Archbishop Stephen Langton knelt in prayer for the success of the Norman Hubert. Around and about the tee, on tiers of rudely contrived benches, the Knights of the Household in full (autumn) armour were mingled with the resplendent Ladies of the Court.

"Sirrah!" said the King, turning sternly to Hubert, "dost think thou canst outwit this Saxon fellow?"

"My grandsire," said Hubert, "played in the Hastings handicap, and it shall go hard with me an I fall short of his score."

The King scowled but said nothing.

"What is bogey?" whispered Roger Bigod, Earl of Bygod, to Sir John Montfaucon de la Tour, who stood beside him near the tee.

"Three, so it thinks me," answered Sir John.

"And gives either of the contestants as it were a bique or holch he in one stroke the fewer?"

"Nay," said Montfaucon, "they play as man to man, or as who should say at scratch."

At this moment, the loud sound of a tucket armoured by the winding of a hobo from the second tee announced that the lists were clear.

"Let the course be measured!" commanded the Chief Marshal.

On this Sir Roger Mauleverer of the Tower and Sir Eustace, the Left-handed, Constable of the Cowstable, attended by six

poursuivants carrying a line of silken yarn, measured the distance.

"How stands it?" asked the King.

"Four hundred ells, six firkins, and a demilitre," answered the Marshal.

At the mention of this distance—which corresponds in our modern English to more than 400 yards—an intense hush fell upon the attendant crowd. That a mere ball no larger than a pheasant's egg could be driven over this tremendous distance by a mere blow from a mere wand of hickory daunted the more imagination.

The King, who well knew that the approaching contest was in reality one between Norman and Saxon and might carry with it the loss of his English crown, could ill conceal the fears that racked his evil conscience. In vain his cup-bearer fetched him goblet after goblet of Gascony. Even the generous wine failed to enliven the mind or to dissipate the fears of the doomed monarch. A great silence had fallen upon the assembled knights and ladies, broken only by the murmured prayers of the saintly archbishop kneeling beside the sand-box. Even the stout hearts of such men as Sir Roger Bigod de Bygod and Sir

Walter de la Tenspot almost ceased to beat.

"Have done with this delay," exclaimed the King. "Let the men begin."

Hubert the Norman stepped first on to the tee. His lithe frame, knit to a nicety, with every bone and joint working to its full efficiency, was encased in a jerkin of Andalusian wool, over a baud-de-chausse, or plus eight, of quilted worsted. He carried in his right hand a small white ball, while in his left he bore a shaft or club of hickory, the handle bound with cordovan leather and the end, or tip, or as the Normans called it, the *hour*, fashioned in a heavy knob flattened on one side to a hexagonal diagonal.

The manner of the Norman Hubert was grave, but his firm movements and his steady eye showed no trace of apprehension as he adjusted the ball upon a small heap of sand upon the forward, or front, part of the tee.

"Canst do it?" queried the agonizing King, his hands writhing nervously on his sceptre.

"My grandsire..." began Hubert.

"You said that before," cried John. "Shoot!"

Hubert bowed and paused a moment to drink a flagon of Amsterdam gin handed to him by the King's bouteiller, or bottle-washer. Then, standing poised on the balls of his feet at a distance of two Norman demis (26½ English inches) from the ball, he waved his club in the air as if testing its weight, while his keen eye measured the velocity of the wind.

Then, as the crowd waited in breathless silence, Hubert suddenly swung the hickory to his full reach behind his shoulder and brought it down in a magnificent sweep, striking the ball with its full impact.

There was a loud resilient "click," distinctly heard by the spectators at the second tee, while a great shout arose from all the Normans as the ball rose in the air describing a magnificent parabola in its flight.

"A Hubert! A Hubert!" they shouted. "Par le Sang de Dieu," exclaimed Sir Roger Bigod de Bygod, "some stroke!"

Meantime the ball, glistening in the sunshine and seeming to gather force in its flight, swept above the fairway and passed high in the air over the ground-posts that marked the hundred, the two hundred, and the three hundred ells, still rushing to its goal.

"By the body of St Augustine!" cried the pious Guillaume de la Hootch, "it will reach the green itself!"

"It has!" shouted Sir Roger Bigod. "Look! Look! They are seizing and lifting the flag! 'Tis on! 'Tis in! By the shirt of St Ambrose, the ball is in the can!"

And as Sir Roger spoke, a great shout went up from all the crowd, echoed even by the Saxon churls who lined the branches of the trees. "A Hole in One! A Hole in One!" cried the multitude, while an immediate rush was made to the barrels or vats of mead which lined the course, into which the exultant populace precipitated themselves head first.

For such readers as do not understand the old Norman game of Goffe, or Gouffe — sometimes

also called Guff — it is proper to explain that in the centre of each *parterre* or *terrace*, sometimes called a *green* or *pelouse* — it was customary to set a sunken receptacle or can, of the kind used by the Normans to can tomatoes, into which the ball must ultimately be driven. The virtue of Hubert's stroke was that he had driven the ball into the can (a feat for which many Normans required eight, ten or even twenty strokes) in one single blow, an achievement called in old Norman a "Hole in One."

And now the voice of the Chief Herald could be heard calling through hautboy or megaphone:

"Hole No 1, stroke No 1. Hubert of Normandy scores Hole in One. Player in hand, J Locksley, of Huntingdon, England. Clear the fairway for shot No 2."

All eyes now turned to where the splendid figure of the mysterious Locksley, the Unknown Gopher or Gopher, ascended the first tee. It was known to all that this was in reality none other, or little other, than the Saxon outlaw Robin Hood, who was whispered to be the Earl of Huntingdon and half-whispered to be, by his descent from his own grandmother, the Saxon claimant to the throne.

"How now, Locksley?" sneered the triumphant John as the Saxon appeared beside him, "canst beat that?"

Every gaze rested upon Locksley as he stood leaning upon his hickory club. His mysterious appearance at Ashby de la Zouch and the whispers as to his identity lent to him a romantic and almost fearsome interest, while his magnificent person marked him as the beau-ideal of the Saxon Gopher still seen at times even in the mimic contests of today.

His powerful form could have touched the balance at 285 pounds avoirdupois. The massive shoulders would have seemed out of proportion but for the ample sweep of the girth or waistline and the splendid breadth of the netherward or rearward hindquarters.

He was clad, like Hubert, in woollen jerkin and plus eights, and he bore on his feet the terrific spiked sandals of the Saxon, capable of inflicting a mortal blow.

Locksley placed his ball, and then, grasping in his iron grip the leather-bound club-headed hickory hexagonal, he looked about him with complete sang-froid and even something of amusement.

The King's boozelicer, or boozehound, now approached Locksley and, after the courtesy of the age, offered him a born or jolt of gin. The Saxon put it aside and to the astonishment of the crowd called only for water, contenting himself with a single bucketful.

"Drink a not?" said the scowling King.

"Not in hours of busyness," said Locksley firmly.

"And canst thou outdo Hubert's shot?" sneered John.

"I know not," said Locksley carelessly. "Hubert's shot was not half bad, but I'll see if I can touch up his ball for him in the tomato can."

"Have done with boasting!" cried the King. "Tell the archbishop to count three, and then let the fellow shoot. If he fail, my Lord Montfaucon and you, Roger Bigod of Bygod, see that he does not leave the tee alive."

The archbishop raised his

saintly face towards the skies and began to count.

"Unum!" he said, using the neuter gender of the numeral adjective in accordance with the increasing deterioration of the Latin language which had already gone far in the year AD 1215.

"Duo," said the archbishop, and then in a breathless hush, as the word "tres" quivered on the lips of the ecclesiastic, Locksley's club cleft the air in a single flash of glittering sunlight and descended upon the ball with such force that the sound of the concussion echoed back from the woods beyond the farthest green.

In a moment, the glittering trajectory of the missile could be followed high in its flight and then the curve of its rushing descent towards the green. For a moment, the silence was so intense that even the faint rustling of the grass was audible to the ear, then the crashing concussion of the driven ball against the inner tin of the tomato can showed that Locksley also had achieved a Hole in One!

But the gasp or gulp of astonishment had hardly passed when the crowd became aware that Locksley's skilled marksmanship had far surpassed the feat of a Hole in One accomplished by his opponent. His ball, driven with a power and accuracy that might well seem incredible, had struck against Hubert's ball inside the can at exactly the angle necessary to drive it out with great force and start it back in flight towards the first tee.

To the amazement of all beholders, Hubert's ball, easily distinguishable by two little dots on its lower face, was seen rushing in rapid flight to retrace its course above the fairway. So true was its path that it landed back precisely on the tee from which Hubert had shot it and came to rest on the little pile of sand on which the Norman gopher and originally placed it.

"By God!" shouted Bigod of Bygod, as Locksley picked up the ball and handed it with a bow to King John.

A wild shout that rose alike from the Saxon Thanes, the Danes, and even the Normans, rent the air, while even the ladies of the court, carried away in a burst of chivalrous admiration, tore off their silken baldrics and threw them at the feet of the victor.

Nobles and commons alike, Norman and Saxon together seized axe or bill and began beating in the heads of the casks in their eagerness to drink the health of the victor.

"A Locksley! A Locksley!" cried the multitude. For the moment, the King paused. His ear caught in the roaring plaudits of the crowd, the first note of that might unison of Saxon and Norman voices which was destined to cast him from his power.

He knew that any attempt against the life or person of the Saxon chieftain was without avail. He turned to the venerable archbishop, who was prostrate beside the tee, calling sand.

"Fetch me the Magna Carta," he said, "and I'll sign it."

This is taken from *Hole In Fun, an anthology of 18 golf stories, edited by Peter Haining (published by W H Allen & Co. £8.95)*



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE WRIGHT



fairway and passed high in the air over the ground-posts that marked the hundred, the two hundred, and the three hundred ells, still rushing to its goal.

The archbishop raised his



## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Davies is left out of Widnes cup side

By Keith Macklin

Jonathan Davies, the most expensive signing in rugby league, has been left out of the Widnes squad for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final tie at Leeds tomorrow, but he is "perfectly happy about it".

John Stringer, the Widnes general manager, said last night: "In such a vital cup game as this, the coach, Duggie Loughton, wanted to put out his most experienced side. David Hume, the Great Britain half back, has been showing outstanding form at stand-off half, and when Barry Dowd came on as substitute at Featherstone last week he made two tries. Dowd retains the substitute back position, with Kurt Sorensen as substitute forward."

Stringer added that Davies had accepted the decision "quite happily" and would travel with Widnes as a support player.

It was a good news, bad news day for Oldham as they prepared to entertain Widnes, the holders, today. Oldham were told by the local authority that they could re-open part of their ground to admit 700 more spectators, raising the all-ticket capacity to 9,400.

The bad news continued with the long injury list facing Tony Barrow, the coach. Two young players stand by to play for Oldham — Ian Bates, at scrum half, and Trevor Croston, in the second row. All the ports are that Oldham will bow out of the cup with a handsome cash reward.

Alex Murphy, the St Helens coach, is convinced that this is another Wembley year and his cause is helped by another home tie. However, the Saints could be caught out by an improved Featherstone Rovers under a coach, Peter Fox, whose tongue is equally as caustic.

Hill Kingston Rovers may find it hard to stay alive against Warrington, who are back to their hard-tackling best.

## CYCLING

## Hard men match up to Curran

By Peter Bryan

Riding skill almost as much as early season fitness will be an important ingredient tomorrow when most of the fast men herald the start of the year's time trial programme in the North Road hardihoods' 25 miles.

There are four danger points on the narrow twisting course based at Espendon, Hertfordshire, where riders have been warned to take special care and a hundred corners where seconds can be lost by the unwary.

The big draw will be the appearance of eight professionals, several of whom are Bilton, and Gary Baker, from the Ever Ready team. Paul Curran, the double Commonwealth Games champion, makes his pro-debut and Eddie Adams, last year's winner, rides again as does Bob Downs (Bilto) who ran him last time to one second.

## IN BRIEF

## Sidhu free to tour W Indies as scheduled

Bridgetown, Barbados (Reuter) — In response to a report from Delhi in which the Indian Cricket Board had said it was scaling aid from the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) in obtaining visas for Navjot Singh Sidhu, a West Indian cricket official said yesterday that Sidhu had not been denied visas to enter any Caribbean countries during the tour, which starts tomorrow.

Sidhu faces a charge of culpable homicide but a Punjab court has extended his bail until May 10, enabling him to leave today for the tour which includes four Test matches.

## Champions run

Ade Mafe and Colin Jackson, who won European indoor titles last Sunday, will run at an international athletics meeting in Sindelfingen, West Germany, tomorrow.

## Classic cancelled

Paris (Reuter) — The annual Bordeaux to Paris cycling classic, scheduled for May 14, was cancelled yesterday. The promoters said they had decided to scrap the event for one year in order to work out a new formula.

## Six-match ban

Shaun Wane, of Wigan, the Great Britain forward, has been banned for six matches by the Rugby League disciplinary committee. Wane was one of five players sent off in an Alliance game against Oldham last Friday. Chris Willis, of Oldham, and Richard Russell, of Wigan, were each banned for three games, while the Oldham pair Ashley Gilbert and Tony Morrison, were ruled out guilty.

## Norman conquest

Del Harris, the English squash player, achieved a second victory over Ross Norman, of New Zealand, the world No. 4, in the second round of the Australian open championship at Saltzburgh yesterday. Ranked ninth, Harris defeated Norman 15-12, 15-14, 15-17, 15-5, to earn a quarter-final match against Chris Robertson, of Australia, the world No. 3.

## Prince to attend

Warwickshire County Cricket Club will stage a one-day international match at Edgbaston on July 19 in aid of the Prince's Trust. Norman Clive Lloyd will select the team; the Prince of Wales will attend the match.

Alan Lee meets trainer David Murray Smith, currently enjoying an enviable strike rate

## Patience pays handsome dividend

It is not through fortune or coincidence that David Murray Smith has arrived, at least on one set of statistics, as almost the most successful trainer of this jumping season. It is through the virtue he has constantly employed during his time in racing — patience.

Only a supremely patient man would have devoted 10 years to learning his trade, under two legendary trainers, before venturing out on his own. Similar stoical qualities were demanded when a virus struck savagely at his yard before he was properly established and now, at last, the fates have decreed he should be allowed to train the winners of which he is capable, patience is prominent again.

Murray Smith has trained 28 winners so far this season, which is only five short of his best return last year. It is not the number of winners which is attracting such comment, however, but the fact that they have accrued from so few runners.

Despite six losers this week, the strike rate of wins to runs from the Murray Smith yard is a little under 40 per cent. Only one man in the country can beat that, Martin Pipe. True, Pipe has sustained a fractionally superior strike rate with more than five times as many runners, but this phenomenon should not detract from the achievement of Murray Smith.

He has always regarded success as a long-term commitment rather than an overnight flirtation. He is one of those characters who commands widespread respect without being widely well known. He prefers to let his horses do the talking — and then, only when he believes they are absolutely fit to do so.

"I know I don't run them as much as most trainers," he agrees. "But I have good owners who are prepared to wait. Anyway, I take no pleasure in seeing a lot of long faces in the unsaddling ring if I have run a horse knowing he is not quite right."

There is, in that wry remark, a hint to the remarkable figures. He does not waste runs. He selects time and place precisely, and, like Pipe, he has no pompous prejudices about courses, as his nine chasing winners from 10 runners at Plumpton will testify.

To find the origins of his methods, however, one must look back much further. This



David Murray Smith, who is enjoying an excellent season, supervises his string on the Lambourn gallops earlier this week

tall, distinguished and shy man grew up with horses. Then, when he had decided that racing should be his career, he surrounded himself with the best tutorage available.

He was born in London to an Irish family. "My father managed the Ballyninch stud in County Kilkenny, so there were always horses around. I loved hunting but I never thought seriously of race riding. I was too tall, too heavy and almost certainly not good enough. Besides, it was always the training of racehorses which fascinated me, although I think my father would have liked me to go into the army."

Murray Smith's apprenticeship details read like a racing who's who. He spent six years with Dick Hern. A winter with top American trainer Woody Stephens at Belmont Park, New York, led on to four years at Ballydoyle with the great

Vincent O'Brien. Then, and only then, did he consider himself prepared to take on the world.

"It may seem a long time but there is no quick way of learning about racehorses. I was determined to let the educational process take its course, rather than hurrying into something I might regret. You only get one crack at this job. If it misfires, it has probably gone for good. I would advise any young person to take as long as he feels right before going alone."

Murray Smith shared some heady times, both with Hern and O'Brien. "In the years I was with them they had 15 or 16 classic winners. But it was not so much their results which impressed me but their methods. When you work with good trainers it is up to you how much you learn from them. I was determined not to miss anything."

He chance to join O'Brien did not fit conveniently into his domestic calendar. "My wife was not terribly impressed that we got married in Newbury on the Friday and I started work in Ireland on the Monday. I told her that the honeymoon would have to wait a little while — as that was nine years ago, we must get round to it soon."

O'Brien's attention to detail left its mark. "For all his success, he was never satisfied that he had got everything right. He was always spending money on new facilities, always looking for ways to improve. I like to think I learned a lot from him."

In September 1983, Murray Smith rented a small yard in Marlborough and set out with a string of predominantly Flat horses. "I reasoned that I had been with mainly Flat trainers

but I was probably unlucky in starting at a time when the Flat was getting very money orientated. I had always loved jumping so I shifted the emphasis. The differences are not enormous. You are still training athletes."

By Christmas 1984, Murray Smith had moved to his current base, Frenchman's Yard. It is the last yard in Lambourn, its red-brick house perched on the very edge of the training hubbub and looking up on to the schooling grounds. He has 48 boxes now, with planning permission for more, and any inhibitions have gone. "I was never keen on being in a training centre but I find Lambourn a very agreeable place."

But life in Lambourn has not always been smooth. His first two full seasons there were a nightmare, the virus plaguing his every move. He

had only 20 winners in two years and the doubts were obvious. "I had not been able to prove myself to anyone. Rhyme 'N' Reason had just won the Irish National and I felt we were making good progress but the horses were then so badly wrong there was nothing I could do."

During that fraught period Murray Smith lost probably his best two horses. Rhyme 'N' Reason was sent to David Elsworth ("I was surprised to lose him but the owner probably thinks that subsequent events have justified it") and Sabin Du Loir went to Martin Pipe. "I was conscious that I had not got the best out of him and I suggested to the owner he might be better for a change. People will think I was a bit too honest for my own good but I did what I thought was right."

Last season, he discovered a new stable star, Aquilifer winning six times. He does not discount a tilt at the Gold Cup. "It might be ambitious but the race is full of ifs and buts and there are few who could beat him if the ground was heavy."

The Grand National last season was a bitter pill. The horse he had mysteriously lost won the great race while his own runner, Course Hunter, was going like a winner himself when he was distracted by a fall at Becher's on the final circuit.

Course Hunter will be fancied again this year if he is in the line-up, but still has only a 50-50 chance of recovering time from a strained tendon. Sadly, of course, there must also be a change of jockey. Paul Croucher's death, in a road accident last autumn, was both a personal and professional tragedy to Murray Smith. "We had a great rapport. I felt the partnership could have lasted a long time."

Now, it is Graham Bradley who rides most of the yard's horses with Steve Smith. Ecles is a willing deputy. "They are two very good jockeys," says the trainer, "and a pair of pranksters, too." He might have been recalling occasions when he himself was the target of the jokers. Murray Smith, however, is blessed with a sense of humour in addition to a sense of patience. In the training game, these are vital commodities.

## Thorpe choice is Night Visitor

Point-to-point by Brian Beal

Three of today's meetings have been called off after yesterday's heavy rain — the Vale of Cleeve, the Bolsover and the South Durham.

The Vale of Cleeve was one of three meetings due to stage a qualifier for the *The Times* Championship, the others being the Greve and Radford and the North Haverhill, where large entries have necessitated the races being split.

At this stage in the season, with so many newcomers appearing, it takes a brave man

THE TIMES

Point-to-point

Championship

to have a tilt at the bookmakers

but on evidence so far Night Visitor and Arctic Paddy look logical choices at Thorpe.

Both divisions of the Herford meeting look very competitive, but the winners of the first division may come from Lancers Bay, Concoctive and Tangle Trail, while Turn Mill is worthy of consideration in the second.

Riding with great confidence and with a strike rate even better than that of Peter Scudamore is Nigel Bloom, who will be happy to continue in winning vein with Nerek Senga in the restricted race at the Easton.

Nerek Senga gave Bloom the first of his six winning rides this season on this course in the North Norfolk maiden and on Noble Blue, now an entry here and a winner last week at Ampton, well beaten in fifth place.

Neither Queen's Son nor Daltmore have had an outing this year but when they met last season, in the West Shropshire open, Daltmore proved superior by 15 lengths. These highly-rated horses from the north-west could clash again in the Audi qualifier at the Cheshire Forest and I would expect Daltmore to come out on top again.

In the day's other qualifier for this event, the *Cheshire Forest*, it would be foolhardy to oppose Border Peril, partnered by David Macgregor, after his fine winning performance in the Haydon open. In the maiden Noble Blue, now an entry here, his debut was given a sympathetic ride by Charlie Sample, looks to have Budgie Burn as the main opposition.

The Land Rover qualifier at the Army has been divided and in the first of the two, Sutton Prince could give Mike Felton his fourth win of the season. Easter Lee should also go close for him in the second leg, but will need to pull out all the stops to beat 14-year-old, Ram To Me, who won the race last year.

A double could be on the cards for Jenny Lison at the Mendips Festival where a record entry of 268 has been received. My Mellow Man was backward when taken to Tweseldown on the first day of the season but she has been strong enough to win the members' and Gathaburn could follow up for her in the ladies.

Two of the three meetings called off today already have new dates. The first of the season on March 8 and the Vale of Cleeve on March 9.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Ampton, 12.20; Bolsover, 12.20; Greve, 12.20; Herford, 12.20; Lambourn, 12.20; North Haverhill, 12.20; Radford, 12.20; South Durham, 12.20; The Vale of Cleeve, 12.20; Wetherby, 12.20.

Alan Ellis, on I Got Stung, has a double incentive for beating Half Free in the Hambleton Hills Handicap. Chassey, the Easter Day winner, is so doing he will prevent the professionally trained ex-hurdler from gaining the second win needed to qualify to run in the Cheltenham Festival's Cheltenham Handicap (Cheltenham Handicap, 7m 10c of Herford (12.0).

In the Gay Shoppard Memorial Challenge Trophy at Wetherby, THREE COUNTRIES will be difficult to beat.

## Bean Alaimn to prove good value over extended trip

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Barney Burnett, Cranlome, and Bean Alaimn who filled the first three places in the three-mile Wessel Harold Clarke Leopardstown Handicap Chase, meet again in the extended £20,000 Ladbrokes Irish Handicap Chase at Punchestown this afternoon, one of four races televised by BBC.

Barney Burnett's success was overdue as so much had been expected of him when he switched from hurdling to steeplechasing. The brilliance he had shown as a hurdler appeared to desert him, but last time out his jumping was much more precise and, having taken up the running five fences from home, was never again headed.

Cranlome, who was in receipt of 9th, had made much of the running with the winner took it up and thereafter continued in the front rank although lacking the speed to regain the initiative.

Bean Alaimn was under pressure and appeared to be losing place four fences out, but he rallied again strongly and was very much in a challenging position when a mistake at the final fence cost her valuable ground.

Cranlome will be trying to repeat his victory of last year in this contest but has an extra 22lb

to carry and better cash-way value would be the mare Bean Alaimn.

Viqueco, oobeeater over jumps, may now meet her match in Kichi in the Quin's Of Ballying Hurdle for four-year-olds. On his latest start Kichi, although short of a gallop, still ran well to finish fourth behind Kingsmill in the

Wessel Cable Champio Hurdle.

If he is to justify Dermot Weld's intention of running in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham Kichi has to win this race comfortably. Over the past fortnight, Dublin betting shops report a steady flow of Cheltenham money for him.

Riska's River got away with a bad blunder at the second-last fence at Fairyhouse to give 8lb

and a five-length beating to Crash Fort in the Dawn Run Novice Chase. The distance of the Diners Club Chase today will be short of his best but with the going likely to be very heavy he may wear down Ferda.

Michael Morris is hopeful that it will prove a case of third-time lucky for him as Grayville Hotel, twice beaten since joining his yard, turns out in the Computex Hurdle.

Prior to his change of stable Grayville Hotel has looked a very good novice. If he is back to his best form, The Ladbrokes winner Redundant Pal will be hard pressed to successfully concede him 12lb here.

Restrained (Paul Cook) was a 15-length winner of the Prix des Annonces in heavy ground at Cagnes-sur-mer yesterday and has now won twice in a week for his trainer, Willie Hastings-Bass. Cook finished second on the Charlie Booth-trained Bursana in the Prix des Beaumonts, won by Ulysses D'Amour.

Cheltenham's new £5 million grandstand will be opened by John Henderson, chairman of Racecourse Holdings Trust, on the first day of the festival meeting on March 14.

Wetherby is technically one of the best steeplechase courses in the country and has the potential to become the Cheltenham of the north. But the management lacks flair and sponsors are so thin on the ground that the racing rarely lives up to the course.

This does not stop large crowds attending most fixtures, especially on Saturdays and the house of spectators is full. The Wetherby racing types and the citizens of Leeds, and Wetherby is fortunate in having such a loyal following.

There is no shortage of runners and from a betting angle the racing is competitive. But there is not a single race of significance from January to the end of the season and the most valuable steeplechase on Saturday, February 4 was worth less than £4,000 to the winner.

Wetherby's marketing strategy appears to begin and end with a pun. It calls itself 'the A1 Course'. The proximity of Britain's most terrifying dual carriageway (it skirts the far end of the course) is a dubious pretext for word-play. Wetherby is not a centre of excellence, though it undoubtedly could be, and there are no contra-flows

earlier this season and has vowed never to repeat the experience. He could not believe the off-handed reception he was given by the executive and wrote a most illuminating letter on the subject to the racing press.

Wetherby's reply was an apology of sorts but it looked that Mr Julian had been over-sensitive and left one with the feeling that Wetherby did not really care. Do they think sponsors go around begging? They have been really treated? Obviously.

Symptomatic of the current regime is the racecard, a tedious document for a supposedly top-class racecourse. It costs 40p and contains no information of any consequence as to the quality of the horses or the quality of the racing. The whole aim of betting is that feeling of cautious certainty as you approach your bookmaker. The information that dogs are not allowed on the course is not exactly a weapon

with which to labour the men in cashmere coats.

Polina in Wetherby's favour are easy parking, good viewing and good food. The paddock was built two years ago and is one of the biggest in the country.

The catering is by Craven & Gilpin, who perform consistently well both at Wetherby and it is rich in carbohydrates. Mrs Currie would no doubt recommend some changes if she entered the restaurant section of Burslem Bar on horse racing and saw racers eating down to giant plates of pie, peas and gravy. If you conquer a full meal here you will not need feeding a day or two. There is no danger of seeing colic-walkers queuing as mild or a place of smoked salmon canapés as he beneath a wicked pie.

Craven & Gilpin practice old-fashioned nutrition.

## TODAY'S TELEVIEWED RACES FROM PUNCESTOWN BBC1

Going: heavy

1.10 QUINN'S OF BALTINGLASS HURDLE (10.5.20.2m) (8 runners)

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# Delius can take centre stage

By Mandarini

Delius, unbeaten in completed outings over fences, can extend that enviable record and gain his most valuable success to date in the £30,000 Racing Post Handicap Chase at Kempton today.

A hurdler of immense promise in the 1983-84 season when trained by Michael Dickinson, Delius did not race for almost four years subsequently because of leg problems and made his belated debut at the age of 10 in January of last year.

Despite that long absence, Delius made an impressive winning reappearance at Kempton (beating Royal Stag) and went on to gain three victories at Huntingdon (beating Lady Dale) and at Leopardstown.

After his Liverpool triumph, trainer Richard Lee established a good rapport

with Delius on the schooling gallops in midweek.

Victory today would put Delius on course for the valuable Mares Cup at Liverpool and a possible clash with Desert Orchid, a race which would be worth going a long way to see.

Stratford doubt

Stratford survived a stewards' inquiry yesterday following persistent rain, but another inspection was planned for 8am as parts of the course were very wet.

Nupela already has a victory over Desert Orchid to his credit, in last season's King George, but his subsequent performances in the Gold Cup and the Hennessy suggest he was considerably flattered by the bare facts of that triumph.

Desert Orchid, the Welsh National with consum-

mate ease in December but has been reassessed for that success and has since fallen at Ascot. He would also prefer the ground a good deal softer.

Ballyhane is well handicapped and admirably consistent but may not quite have the pace to win a race as good as this while Bishops Yarn was put firmly in his place by Ten Plus at Newbury last time.

The biggest threat to his progress is six-year-old Cuddy Dale, who jumped his rivals ragged at Kempton last time and seems equally at home over 2½ or three miles.

Washlow, a lively Champion Hurdle outsider, faces a tough task against the likes of Decided, Sordario and Riverhead in the Dovecot Novices' Hurdle but must succeed if he is to realise the potential which Cheltenham has seen in him.

Nemadik Way can enhance

## Dwyer frustrated over comeback

Mark Dwyer's third attempt to get back into racecourse action has been frustrated yet again.

Dwyer, who brushed his spine two weeks ago in a fall from a horse, was unable to get back into the saddle on Monday and he will now not set himself any comeback date.

George Mernagh has been signed off for at least 48 hours after suffering his shoulder in a fall at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Mernagh fell from Master Ralph at the third in the Chester Novices' Chase but did not think it too serious at the time. He continued to ride and even partnered a winner - Ammie Dot

### KEMPTON PARK

#### Selections

By Mandarini

2.05 Washlow. 2.35 Brookmont. 3.05 French Goblin.

By Michael Seely

2.05 Washlow. 3.05 Chiffchaff. 4.10 DELIUS (nap).

Going: good

#### 2.05 DOWDICE NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,650: 2m) (13 runners)

101	2.05-100	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
102	2.05-101	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
103	2.05-102	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
104	2.05-103	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
105	2.05-104	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
106	2.05-105	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
107	2.05-106	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
108	2.05-107	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
109	2.05-108	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
110	2.05-109	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
111	2.05-110	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
112	2.05-111	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
113	2.05-112	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50

1988: WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0

#### 2.35 GALLOWAY BRIDE NOVICES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,650: 2m) (8 runners)

201	2.35-101	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
202	2.35-102	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
203	2.35-103	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
204	2.35-104	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
205	2.35-105	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
206	2.35-106	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
207	2.35-107	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
208	2.35-108	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50

1988: WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0

#### 3.5 D A THOMAS REMEDIES HURDLE (Listed race: £2,650: 2m) (5 runners)

301	3.5-101	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
302	3.5-102	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
303	3.5-103	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
304	3.5-104	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
305	3.5-105	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50

1988: WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0

#### FORM

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### 4.10 RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £23,210: 3m) (12 runners)

401	4.10-101	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
402	4.10-102	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
403	4.10-103	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
404	4.10-104	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
405	4.10-105	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
406	4.10-106	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
407	4.10-107	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
408	4.10-108	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
409	4.10-109	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
410	4.10-110	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
411	4.10-111	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50
412	4.10-112	WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0	B. Shawcross	50

1988: WASHLOW 7 (J.P. O'Connell) D. Shawcross 0-11-0

#### FORM

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RUGBY UNION: BRISTOL, LEICESTER AND WASPS FORCED TO MAKE CHANGES TO THEIR NORMAL TEAMS FOR PILKINGTON QUARTER-FINALS

CRICKET

# Injuries introduce youth and more hazard to the Cup

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Youth is given every opportunity to have its fling in the Pilkington Cup quarter-finals today, even though it makes prediction an even more hazardous task than usual. Bristol, Leicester and Wasps have all had to make amendments to their normal teams which introduce David Essien, Tony Underwood and Paddy Dunston to audiences somewhat larger than those to which they are accustomed.

Essien, aged 19, plays only his fourth senior game for Bristol against Bath, the cup favourites, on what will certainly be an oozing, slippery Recreation Ground. He plays on the wing for the injured Woodman, though his three previous games have been at full back - where he played for England colts - wing and centre.

He plays outside another teenager, Painter, while the Bristol pack includes Sharp, a prop in whom the Scottish under-21 selectors have taken a keen interest. All of which suggests that Bath, with their wealth of international experience, should progress to Monday's semi-final draw save for the fact that knockout games are not always so clearcut.

## Wasps pick Cassidy straight from colts

While Steve Bates and Aadel Kardooni resume acquaintance at Welford Road today, another young scrum half, Stuart Cassidy, will look on from the Wasps replacement bench, a testimony to his club's thriving youth policy (David Hands writes).

Bates and Kardooni have both played second fiddle in their time. Bates to Nigel Melville as Wasps scrum half and now to Dewi Morris at England level. Kardooni, under-21, has been himself at Wasps last season but his studies have taken him to Leicester, where he has been by-passed Nick Youngs and Steve Kenney but remains a replacement for the Combined English Students against the French next week.

Now Cassidy, 19 today, awaits his chance. Such is Wasps' confidence in his ability that he has been picked out of the club's colts team for today's

cup squad after an outstanding match against London Welsh last week.

Cassidy joined Wasps from Leicester at the start of this season and has helped the colts to a run of victories marked only by defeat against Rastyns Park and a drawn match with Whitechapel. That tally includes success against Leicester earlier this month and, should Cassidy need any encouragement about what is possible, the sight of Paddy Dunston propping for the club's senior side should be sufficient.

Dunston, aged 20, is another product of the colts system and he is now pressing for a place in England's first under-21 team, which will play Harlequins in May. He has the reputation of being as fast as some of Wasps' three-quarters though the club will be more than happy if he can make light of the absence of the injured Jeff Probyn.

Wasps themselves will be without Probyn, the concussed England prop, which allows Dunston his first taste of cup rugby at 20. There seems little doubt that this tie will be as tight as the league match between the two clubs in September, when five penalties by Hare saw Leicester to a 15-6 win.

The third first-division tie brings the holders, Harlequins, together with Nottingham at the Stoop Memorial ground. Nottingham were encouraged by the form shown against Gosforth by Jones, normally a wing though now playing centre, but they will concede height to the Harlequins at the lineout and Hodgekinson's kicking may not be enough to see them through.

Wakefield, the sole remaining northern representative, are the romantic outsiders. Gloucester, against whom they have played only once (they lost 18-3 in 1932), are the pragmatic realists of the cup, which has brought them three finals and two outright wins. They go in as second favourites and it is hard to see the Yorkshiremen upsetting the odds.



Frater: Tony Underwood stands in for his brother, Rory

## Hall's departure and weather puts dampener on ties

By David Hands

In Wales this season, it never rains but it pours - literally. Mike Hall, arguably the most successful back during a lamentable international season, has left Bridgend on the eve of today's Schweppes Welsh Cup quarter-finals and the weather has washed out the tie between Newcastle and Aberllynnydd and Glamorgan Wanderers and Neath. In addition there will be a pitch inspection this morning at Llanharan (10am).

Hall, aged 23, and a second-year graduate at Cambridge, has criss-crossed the country like a yo-yo for national squad sessions and club calls this season. But Bridgend chose not to select him for today's cup game at Llanelli in order to remain loyal to those who can train and play regularly for the club, and Hall seems likely to move to Cardiff where he hopes to work after finishing at university.

In essence the split comes because of the intolerable demands made on amateur players. Hall has tried to give his club the time compatible with his studies which, obviously, cannot be as great as those players who live locally to Bridgend.

John Devereux and John Apsey will play in midfield against the cup holders and Hall will depend on games for Cardiff against the Anti-Assassin's (the Mobbs Memorial match) to stay sharp assuming Wales require him against England on March 18. Hall's departure is unlikely to

improve club morale against the most consistent team in the country but Cardiff, in contrast, could do with some good news in a season wracked by injuries. The draw has taken them to Llanharan, the village club who are the only juniors left in either the English or the Welsh knockout competitions. As such, Llanharan will be relied on by absent enthusiasts as well as their own well-to-do partisans. "Cardiff will be up against the whole village when they arrive so that has got to be worth a few points to us," Trevor Worgan, the Llanharan back-row man who used to play for Cardiff, said. However, Cardiff, five times winners of the cup, have the experience of their strong international contingent to draw upon and were encouraged to find Andrew Booth, the Neath scrum half, training with them this week. He may play against Bristol next week.

Richard Moriarty, Swansea's captain, requires treatment for a back injury and will miss the first meeting between his club and Saracens at Southgate. The London club hopes that Dean Ryan, the England B player who broke his arm in November, will make his comeback in one of the lower sides.

The Luddites scheduled first meeting with Loughborough Students at Ashby Road next Wednesday has been cancelled, by mutual agreement, because of the students' heavy representative commitments.

## Kelso's chance to seal title

By Alan Lister

Today's B international against France at Melrose.

Boroughmuir continue with Colin McCartney at full back. The former North and Midlands winger is the leading try scorer in the first division and has proved himself a useful place kicker especially from long range.

However, Walker will almost certainly be Melrose's first choice kicker. His opposite number, Andrew Kerr, the leading points scorer in the first division, is the maestro in this skill and his kicking ability will obviously play a crucial role.

Up front, Kelso have the edge in the back row of Eric Paxton, John Jeffrey and Clive Miller who have scored nine tries in League matches this season. Boroughmuir's breakthrough try, while as abysmal as any, has nevertheless appeared rather one-paced. But it is in the second row that the home side have the advantage, through their Edinburgh lock, Jon Price,

and Brian Richardson, who should ensure a good supply of ball at the lineout.

Elsewhere in the first division, Harlequins should have little difficulty in beating Walsley and likewise Harlequins against Stewart's Melville. At Schrick, Glasgow Academicals will be fighting to avoid relegation while at Riverside, Jedinstvo and Moscow will be engaged in a middle of the table contest.

Two games in Dublin, St Mary's College against Lansdowne and Blackrock College in opposition to Monksdown, dominate the programme in Ireland today. A win for St Mary's will win them Section A of the Leinster Senior League title, enabling them to pip Old Wesley by a point. Blackrock College and Monksdown have both gained promotion to Section A and meet today in a play-off for the B Section pennant.

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## Pakistan recover with record stand

From Omar Ahmed Auckland

It was a happy hunting day for Pakistan in the decisive third and final Test against New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland. By stumps on the first day they had piled up a respectable 289 for the loss of only two wickets.

Pakistan had recovered from the humiliation of 44 for 2 after Imran Khan had won the toss, thanks mainly to two of their century makers of the second Test at Wellington, Iqbal Masih and Shoaib Mohammad whose unbroken stand of 245, was a record for Pakistan against New Zealand. It was an improvement on their 220 for the third wicket in the second Test.

New Zealand, who had already left out their three seamers, Morrison, Morrison and Watson from the original 15, dropped the all rounder, Dipak Patel, as well from the final 12 to accommodate Greatbatch.

For Pakistan, winning the toss was a bonus. Once over the fitters of the early dismissals of their seamers, Mudassar Nazar and Rizwan-Uz-Zaman, they were able to negotiate admirably a limited bowling attack consisting of two pacemen, Hadlee and Chelmsford, and two spinners, Bracewell and Book.

It was only in the pre-lunch session that New Zealand were able to pick up two wickets but for the rest of the day it was an ordeal. Mudassar provided Hadlee with his 39th Test wicket when with only 10 on the board for Pakistan he was adjudged leg-before. Rizwan was then caught in the first slip by Crowe in Book's sixth over.

Mudassar and Shoaib settled in to punish the hosts with well timed drives and cuts. From 80 for two at lunch they added 106 runs in the second session and 103 between tea and stumps. Shoaib, 43 at lunch, reached his half century after the resumption. Mudassar's 50 included five fours and two sixes. The 100 partnership came in only 82 minutes.

Mudassar, the first to hit his century in 175 minutes had hit nine fours and three sixes. Shoaib's third Test century, which contained 17 fours, soon followed. It had taken him 291 minutes and 214 deliveries.

**PAKISTAN:** First innings: 289. Imran Khan 100, Iqbal Masih 100, Shoaib Mohammad 50, Mudassar Nazar 50, Rizwan-Uz-Zaman 40, Dipak Patel 10, Hadlee 10, Chelmsford 10, Bracewell 10, Book 10. **NEW ZEALAND:** First innings: 44. Morrison 10, Morrison 10, Watson 10, Patel 10, Greatbatch 10, Bracewell 10, Book 10.

### Pilkington Cup

Bath v Bristol

Travestis plays on the wing for Bath because Sague is injured; Palmer, a centre, stands by in case Guscott's injured ankle does not respond to treatment.

Bristol play Stiff at lock and Eves at flanker in the absence of Sague and Horn, who are injured.

Harlequins v Nottingham Harlequins play David Thresher at lock and have Thompson available once more at stand-off. Gray and Hodgekinson form Nottingham's second row with Jones and Harley paired at centre.

Leicester v Wasps Richards and Wells return to the Leicester back row and Dodge has recovered from a muscle strain. Rigby plays only his second senior game of the year for Wasps, who will miss Eason, at No. 8.

Wakefield v Gloucester Adamson has a pulled thigh muscle and is doubtful for Wakefield, who will call on Bowers at full back if required. Gloucester welcome back Teague, at No. 8, and Madden at centre.

### Schweppes Welsh Cup

Llanelli v Bridgend

Llanelli field their five present internationals and a close eye will be kept on Stephens, at stand-off. Bridgend are without Bryant and Edwards in the pack; Connolly will prop; Cooper will play flanker.

Llanharan v Cardiff Llanharan are unchanged from the XV which beat South Wales Police in the last round, but Cardiff have Young and Phillips available in the front row and Elgoddog restored to health in the centre.

The Newbridge v Aberllynnydd and Glamorgan Wanderers v Neath matches have been postponed.

Shortland called Stephen Shortland, the Leeds Polytechnic lock, has replaced Tim Swan, who is suffering from glandular fever, in the Combined English Students team to play French Students at Ilford Road, Oxford, on March 3. Shortland's place on their replacements bench is taken by Matthew Greenwood.

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Ref: OE/SACM

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## ACCOUNTANCY

# The real prizes to the brightest

**P**ublication this morning of the results of the Institute of Chartered Accountants PEII examinations has no doubt triggered scenes of modest merry-making wherever two or more trainee accountants are gathered together. For those who worked diligently last year the time has come for their just rewards.

Quite apart from any examination celebrations, however, it sometimes seems that the chartered accountancy profession in general has embarked on a non-stop party to which more and more people are being invited. Year-by-year the profession grows bigger. And each autumn it sucks in a larger proportion of the country's young talent.

Back in September, for example, there was a considerable stir when Peat Marwick McLintock, the world's biggest firm of accountants, made history by recruiting for the first time 1,000 graduate trainees. On this year's recruitment round, Peat's target will be even greater. Indeed, with more than 10 per cent of all new graduates now going into accountancy, the only question is how the supply of the new entrants can be met: this apparently insatiable demand — especially once the effects of the demographic downturn starts to bite in the early 1990s.

Most of those who receive good news today are destined in all likelihood for a comfortable — if hard-working — future. Whether or not they stay in public practice, their qualifications will be worth their weight in Amex Gold Cards. Part of the reason is that a chartered

**Edward Fennell looks at the increasing demand for young graduates and the strong prospects for professionals**



accountancy qualification has become virtually the UK's equivalent of an American MBA — a reliable passport to a business career.

Changes taking place in the syllabus of the professional examinations will help strengthen chartered accountants' credentials as business managers and all-round financial experts.

The result is that the range of choice ahead for young accountants is wide. It also means that within a year or so those who are successful today will need to ask themselves some fundamental questions.

Once qualified, will they stay with their present firm? Will they join one of the clients with whom they have worked recently? Or will they perhaps transfer to a management-consultancy operation?

For some newly qualified accountants who have little experience other than a degree course and accountancy training,

that may be a difficult decision because they lack a wider understanding of the business world. Recent moves by Arthur Andersen and Arthur Young, however, mean that a small number of older people are being brought into the profession who may be in a position to take a more considered view.

Said Alan Cull, a principal manager involved with AY Recruitment: "Over the last five years, peoples' attitudes have certainly changed, and we now look very positively at such older applicants. What they bring is a little extra maturity which adds something to the peer groups. What is more, they normally do extremely well."

Currently AY is taking three to four older entrants each year. The more experience they have, the better they are liked. (The firm was recently joined by a qualified physiotherapist, aged 30, who had decided to change career entirely

and retrain as an accountant). Equally significant is a scheme for older entrants run by Arthur Andersen. For the second year running, Andersen has been advertising for experienced graduates to come and join its Financial and Business Services (FBS) Group.

The notable feature of this is that, unlike the AY scheme, it is targeted on attracting people who are destined for management consultancy-type jobs, albeit within the accountancy practice.

**A**ndersen's Charles Osborne explained: "The FBS Group is a kind of management-consultancy outfit within the accountancy practice. We have people in six 'product lines', ranging from general strategic planning through to purchasing and sales marketing.

"We want to recruit people into these

functions who have had two or three years of focused experience — project management, for example — and therefore come in with different perceptions from those straight out of higher education." What makes this different from most other forms of management-consultancy training is that there is an opportunity to gain the chartered accountancy qualification as well as the entrée into consultancy.

About half the people coming through on the scheme are taking up the opportunity and showing a motivation and determination which surpasses that of their younger colleagues who have come in by the more conventional route. It is almost as if they have a sense of burning urgency to catch up on those three or more years which they have spent elsewhere.

The truth is, of course, that their breadth of experience is probably their

most useful asset. They could even be described as a useful antidote to an overdose of academic naivety among young colleagues; they are clearly a breath of fresh air to a profession that spends so much of its time on advising others about the conduct of their business. The result is that Andersen considers the innovation is paying off exceptionally well. Last year the advertising campaign attracted a vast number of responses and this year the same has occurred.

In particular, it has grabbed the attention of people coming off MBA programmes who want to take advantage of the opportunities which a big firm of accountants offers.

The curious postscript to this story is that though the two Arthurs are united in their appreciation of older clients, they use entirely different methods of selecting them.

At Arthur Young they swear by a selection and assessment system that relies heavily on numeracy, literacy and spatial tests. Unless you pass the test, you will have no chance.

By contrast at Arthur Andersen they make no use whatsoever of such psychometric methods. Instead, they rely on extensive and time-consuming interviews which evaluate the "whole person".

It all goes to show, I suppose, that despite the popular myths, there is no simple recipe for what makes an accountant. Let's just say that they are pretty bright people — especially the ones who got their results today.

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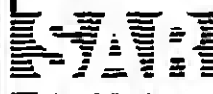
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## OUTDOOR LEISURE

# Messing about on the Thames

JULIAN HERBERT

The decline of dinghy sailing since the Sixties, and expanding winter sailing opportunities elsewhere, have hit an old Thames club, John Young reports

It is in these climatically contradictory times, a gloriously sunny winter afternoon. The Thames at high water swells peacefully under a flawless blue sky, and the riverside pubs, freed from restrictions on Sunday opening hours, spill their customers out to crowd the benches and walls overlooking the river.

In his eye outside the London Corinthian Sailing Club on Upper Mall, Hammersmith, the race officer hoists a string of pennants and blows a whistle to signal the first dinghy across the finishing line. The cheerful informality of the occasion contrasts with the formal elegance of the 18th-century clubhouse, which the unknown visitor might associate with all the traditional "summers" of yachting: in white caps and reefed jackets playing at being "young admirals".

A plaque informs passers-by that the club was founded in 1894 to encourage "the building and racing of sailing boats". But any grandiose pretensions have long since vanished. It is nowadays a convivial and friendly meeting place for people who want to spend a healthy and relaxing couple of hours on the river, and enjoy a pint or two afterwards, for only a fraction of the cost of belonging to a smart suburban golf club.

This is partly because dinghy sailing has suffered a marked decline in popularity since its heyday in the 1960s. Even if the Corinthian and its sister club, Ranelagh, a mile or two downriver at Putney, wanted to remain exclusive, they could no longer afford to do so.

The invention of the modern dinghy is usually attributed to the remarkable Uffa Fox, former sail-

ing companion of the Duke of Edinburgh, and for many years easily the best known figure in the sport. In 1927 he designed and built the famous International 14, Avenger, which in a fresh breeze accelerated by planing over the surface of the water instead of ploughing through it.

But it was not until after the Second World War, with increasing affluence and cheaper vessels such as the Mirror and Enterprise, that the sport became accessible to almost everyone. To its devotees, the International 14 was still the "queen of dinghies", nowhere more so than at the London

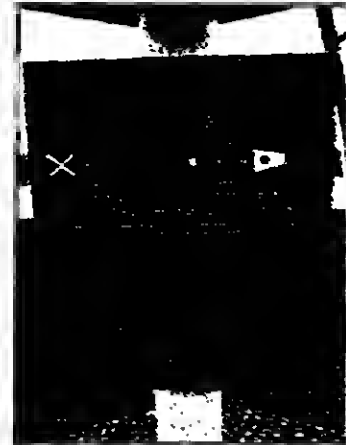
Corinthian, which became the winter meeting place for many of the top sailors in Britain. Its earlier home was a ramshackle, but much loved, building near Hammersmith Bridge, and its commodore the late Sir Alan Herbert.

The club, numbering writers and artists among its members, was one of the joys of Herbert's life. His portrait by Ruskin Spear hangs on the stairway of the present building, which is said to have been built originally for Queen Anne's cook. At one time it was a rowing centre for "nipples", the famous waitresses from Lyons corner shops, and in 1963 was offered to the Corinthian on a 21-year lease for £260 a year.

It would be misleading to suggest that the club has since fallen on hard times, but clearly things are not what they were. On a good day there may be up to 25 boats out racing, Hugh Kemlo, who with his wife, Miranda, has been sailing on Hammersmith Reach for the last 30 years, attributes the decline partly to the boom in board-sailing, which is seen by many young people as more macho and challenging.



Blue sails in the sunlight: Uffa Fox is credited with inventing the modern dinghy in 1927 with the International 14, but it was only after the war that sailing became accessible to all



Fighting to stay afloat: (from left) Sally Dixon, the Corinthian's first lady commodore; the club board; and the 18th-century clubhouse, subject of a battle with Hammersmith Council

More people can afford to cruise offshore or keep their boats abroad, confining their sailing to annual Mediterranean holidays. Still more can and do travel further at weekends, and advanced all-weather clothing has prolonged the season, so that many coastal clubs, which used to close between October and April, now stage "frostbite" meetings throughout the winter. The Thames clubs have faced competition from inland lakes, such as the Queen Mary and Queen

Mother reservoirs on the western fringes of London, where the hours are not limited by the tides. But there is, or ought to be, still an attraction in the sheer convenience of being able to sail so close to the heart of London. Bill Simpson, a former Corinthian commodore, is still enthusiastic enough at the age of 70 to commute to Hammersmith at weekends with his wife, Elaine, and relishes the memory of a day so cold that their Enterprise was encased in a coating of ice.

There are several husband-and-wife teams in the Corinthian, and indeed there is a woman commodore, the first in the club's history. Sally Dixon, a vivacious Glaswegian, learnt to sail on the Clyde and now teaches at a school in Marylebone. Most of her three-year term has been spent in a struggle with Labour-controlled Hammersmith Council, which owns the clubhouse and which, having doubtless convinced itself that yachting was rich and yachting

an elitist sport, sought to increase its annual rent to £23,000. After a four-day hearing in the county court a new 14-year lease was agreed at £3,500 a year. "Before that I really did think that we would have to close down," she says. "We are now just beginning to think that we have a future. We are redecorating the clubhouse, and we have bought a new pontoon." But she admits that the club badly needs a blood infusion. It has around 300 members and

could accommodate three times as many. Applications from young people are particularly welcome: at an annual subscription of only £50, and club boats available for hire at £1 a time, the cost is certainly no hindrance, although with its strong tides and unpredictable winds, the Thames is perhaps not ideal for beginners. Dixon's term of office is coming to an end, and as she presents the day's trophies, there is a suspicion of a catch in her voice. "It's been a wonderful day. Just idyllic."

## How to fly with both feet on the ground

JOHN ROGERS

More people are discovering the joys of kite flying, says Jane Cryer

Kite flying is enjoyed by anybody who can find enough space and wind. Its popularity has soared as people discover that their childhood games provide important exercise, and an antidote to the stresses of modern living.

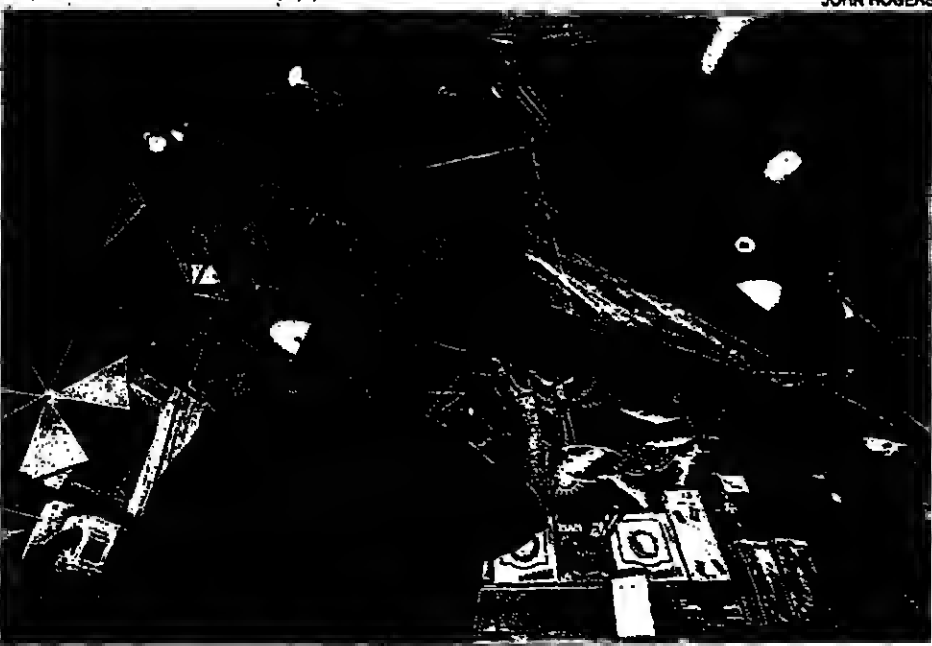
Andy King, co-owner of Covent Garden's Kite Store, says rather more men than women are buying kites, although there is no average customer. "Really, you can't stereotype it. We've had dustbin men and company directors, and any age from five-year-olds to the over-sixties."

Kite flying can be more than just running around Parliament Hill in north London on a Sunday afternoon. "It's important to distinguish between recreational flyers, hobbyists and competitors," King says. "The recreational flyer will really only do it at the weekend, possibly only on a Sunday. The hobbyist will have probably had a shot at making his or her own kite, and will fly at least once a week. And competitors are people like me who can never find enough hours in the day to fly."

Kite flying has a history spanning 25 centuries, beginning in China where kites were used as primitive telegraphs to send urgent messages. They have enjoyed intermittent popularity in this country, with a particular vogue in the 18th century among dandies, who saw it as "a most elegant and refreshing pursuit".

Many towns and cities have kite societies, each one affiliated to the Kite Society of Great Britain, which publishes a monthly newsletter. At the moment the society is engaged in promoting a new kind of competition, known as the cognomen or STACK, but known to the rest of us as incredible stunts.

Festivals are held regularly throughout the spring and summer, the largest in Bristol towards the end of August. The first is the Blackheath Easter festival, an informal, low-key affair, which makes it



Master craftsman: shop owner Andy King says there is no such thing as an average customer



Getting under sail: kite flying, the enthusiasts say, is "a good way to blow the cobwebs away"

a good starting point for anyone who is thinking of taking the kite a little more seriously. Competitions and demonstrations, some for children, are the mainstay of the festivals; fighting kites, or rokkaku, are an exciting demonstration of the flyer's skill.

Typical of today's kite flyers are the Woodleigh family from Blackheath. Jo Woodleigh was a keen dancer before Hannah came along. She now finds kite flying beneficial in more ways than one: "Just thinking about an hour's aerobics class makes

me exhausted. But taking Hannah up to the heath gives me the fresh air and exercise that I need on a level that I can cope with."

Her husband Ben, a chartered accountant, enjoys the rare opportunity to get some exercise in the company of his family: "Having a specific time with Hannah means I get away from work completely and can concentrate on her. The kite is a wonderful way of blowing away the cobwebs."

The cost of buying a kite varies from £1.99 to more than £500 for a hand-crafted, custom-made one. In addi-

tion to toyshops and specialist retailers, there is a thriving mail order business run by Peter Walters at Malvern Kites. Like all manufacturers, Walters is an enthusiast and very willing to answer any queries that the beginner may have. If you prefer to approach the kite through reading about it first, the most comprehensive survey is published by Penguin, entitled *The Penguin Book of Kites* (£8.95); other literature on kites tends to be on how to build your own, which can be a little daunting for the beginner.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

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